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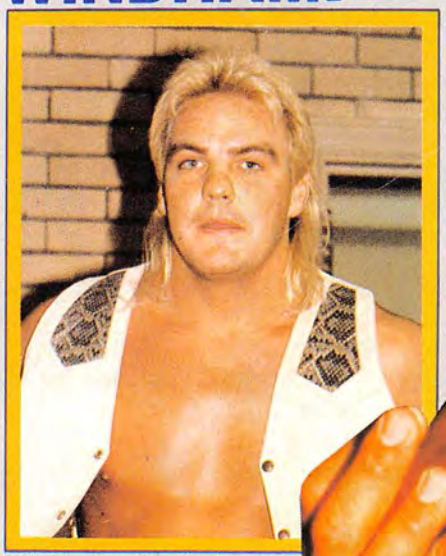

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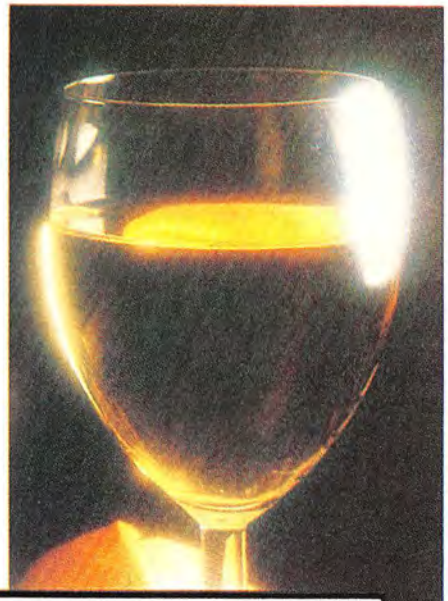

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CONTENTS

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FEATURES

THE NWA VS THE WWF: THE LAST WORD! 6
THE HEAVYWEIGHT CRYSTAL BALL. 12
THE VARSITY CLUB AND COACH KEVIN SULLIVAN 16
THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR: HERCULES WILL FALL TO ME! . .20
J.J. DILLON: THE HORSEMEN'S MASTER STRATEGIST . . .24
THE METAMORPHOSIS OF BARRY WINDHAM. 28
THE FOUNDATION'S BROKEN HART:
BRET HART DUMPS NEIDHART. 32
WAHOO McDANIEL: DETERMINATION PERSONIFIED 45
THE UNPREDICTABLE JOHNNY RODZ: NCW CHAMPION. . .48
REMEMBER WHEN: A LOOK BACK 54
THE IRON SHEIK: WRESTLING'S MISUNDERSTOOD MAN . .66
COMRADE ORGA: FROM RUSSIA WITH HATE. 73

PIN-UPS

MAGNUM TA 2
IRON SHEIK. 3
JIMMY HART 4
BRUTUS BEEFCAKE. 37
HERCULES 38
BRUISER BRODY VS ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER 39
SAVAGE, ELIZABETH AND HOGAN 40-41
MATCH OF THE MONTH: RIC FLAIR VS STING. 42-43
TED DIBIASE. 44
JIM DUGGAN. 77
PROFESSOR TORU TANAKA 78
EDDIE GILBERT. 79
JOHNNY RODZ 80
DEMOLITION VS THE BRITISH BULLDOGS 81

DEPARTMENTS

EDITORIAL. 5
WRESTLING EYE PIN UP: CACTUS JACK FOLEY. 31
FAN CLUB COLUMN 52
PHANTOM OF THE RING 58
PHOTO OF THE MONTH: DAVID SHULTZ 60
OFFICIAL RATINGS. 62
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR 70

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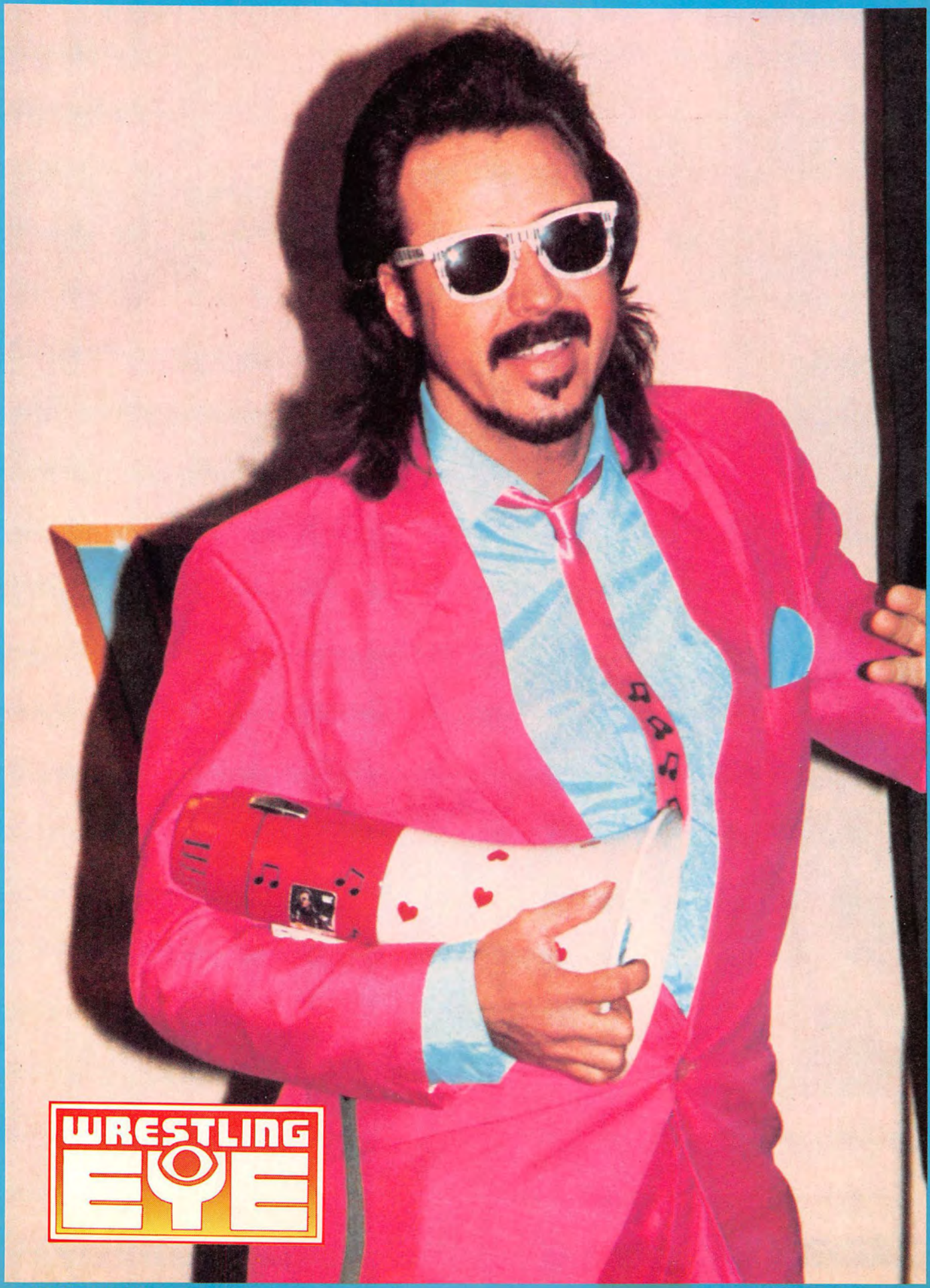
JIMMY HART



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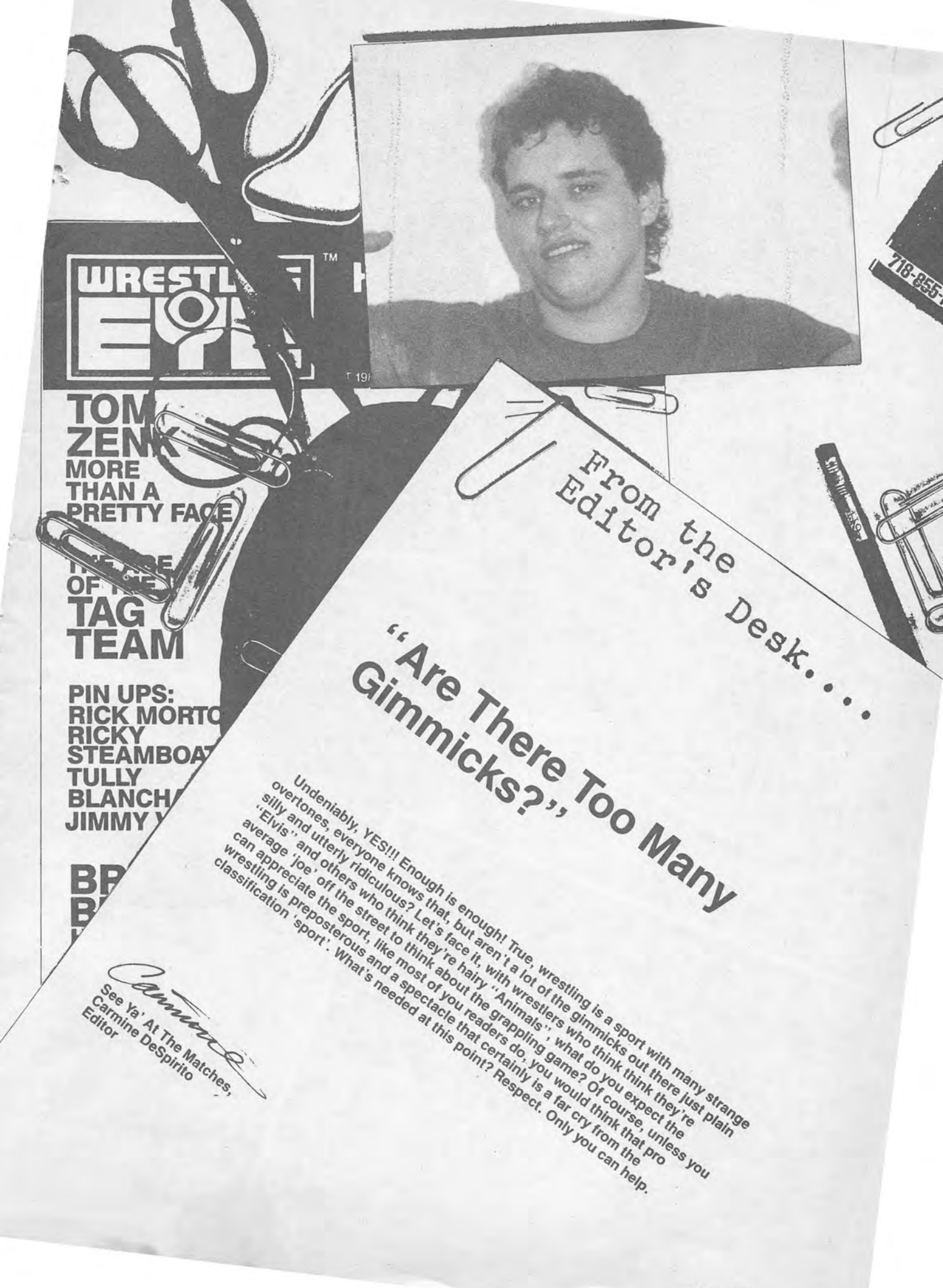
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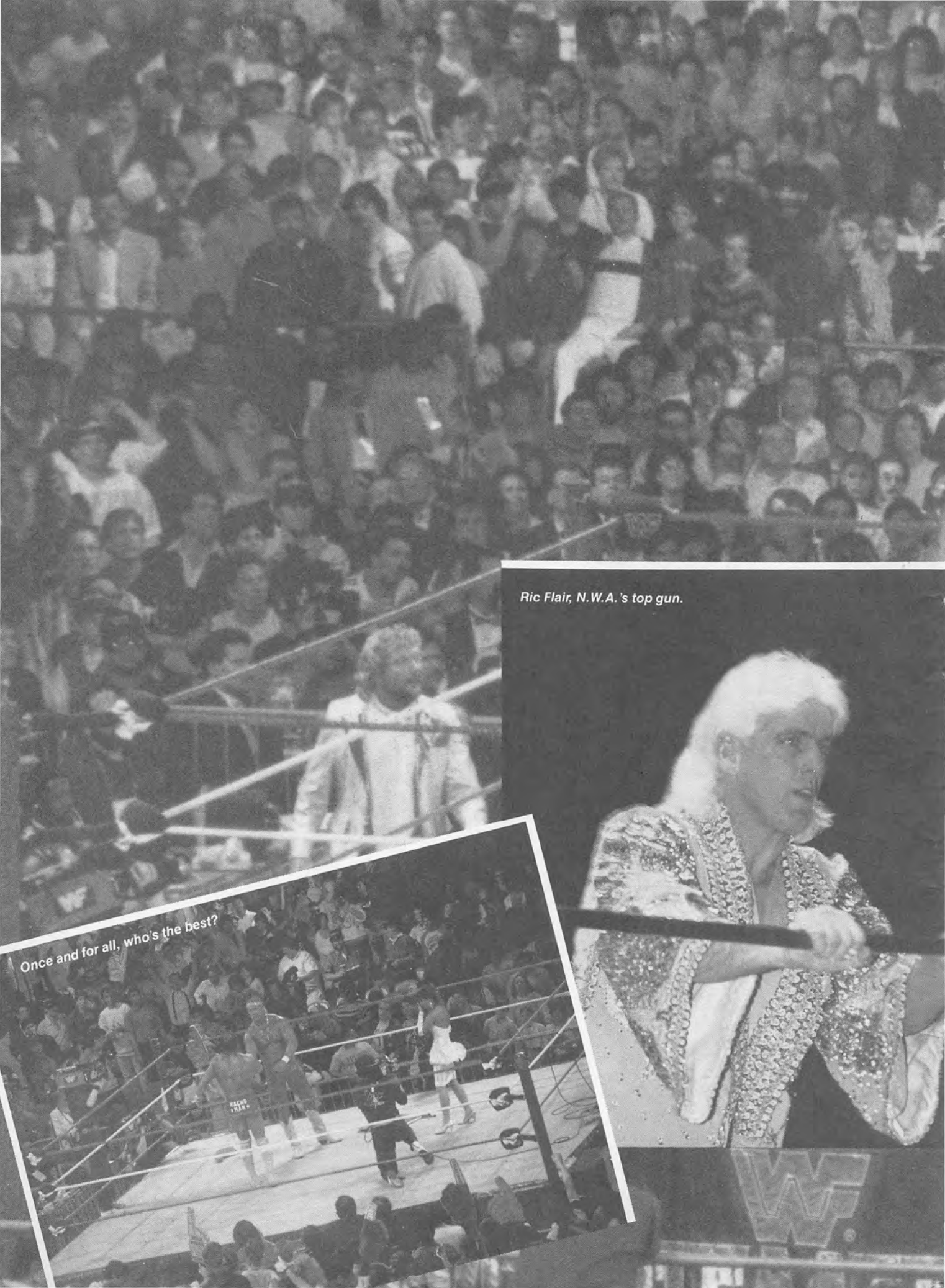
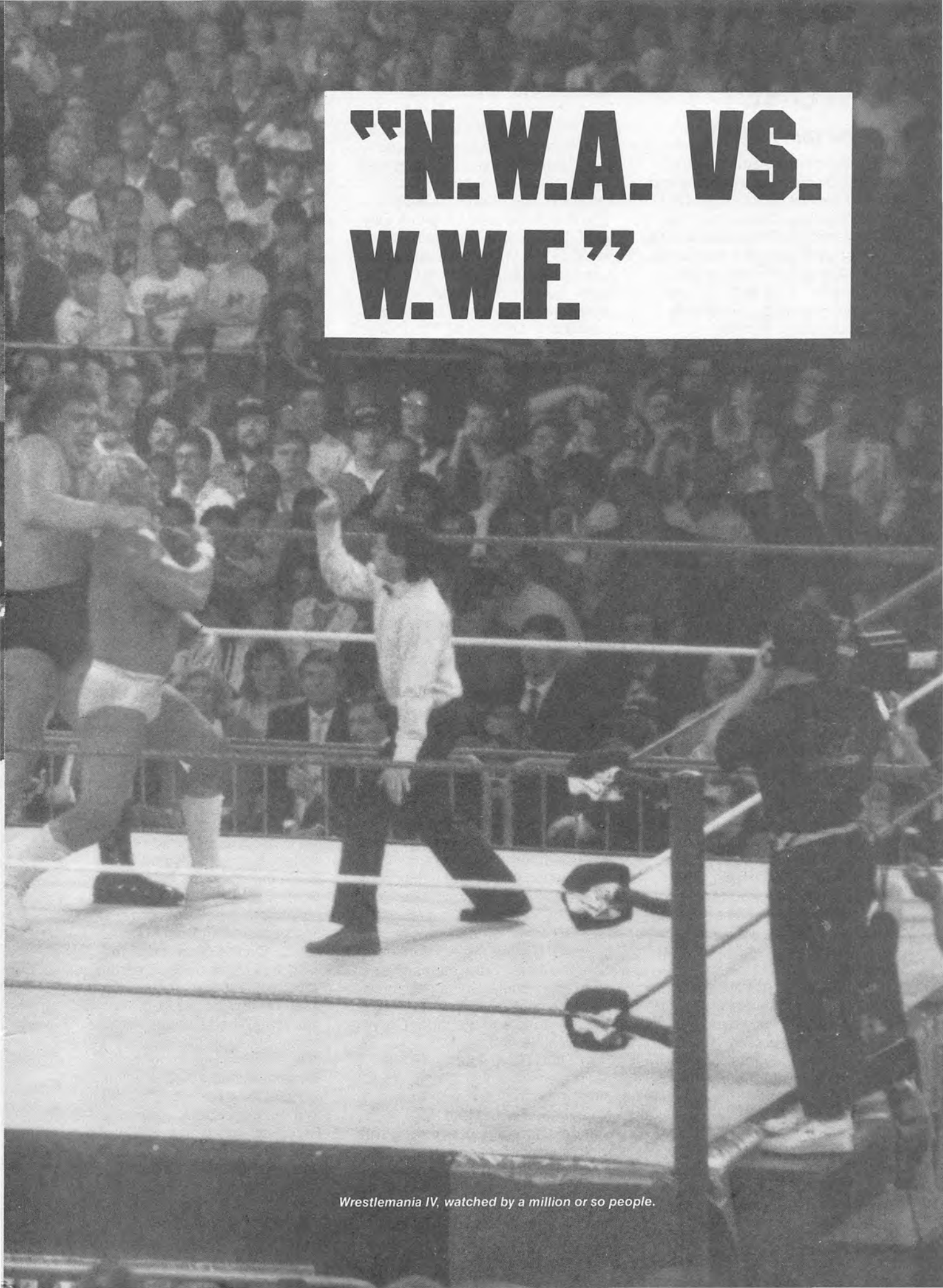
From the
Editor's Desk....
"Are There Too Many
Gimmicks?"
Undeniably, YES!!! Enough is enough! True, wrestling is a sport with many strange
overtones, everyone knows that, but aren't a lot of the gimmicks out there just plain
silly and utterly ridiculous? Let's face it, with wrestlers who think think they're
"Elvis", and others who think they're hairy "Animals", what do you expect the
average 'joe' off the street to think about the grappling game? Of course, unless you
can appreciate the sport, like most of you readers do, you would think that pro
wrestling is preposterous and a spectacle that certainly is a far cry from the
classification 'sport'. What's needed at this point? Respect. Only you can help.
See Ya' At The Matches,
Carmine DeSpirito
Editor



Ric Flair, N.W.A.'s top gun.

Once and for all, who's the best?

"N.W.A. VS. W.W.F."



Wrestlemania IV, watched by a million or so people.

THE LAST WORD!

By Tom Clutters

To most of you reading this, it probably seems like a century ago that the conflict between the National Wrestling Alliance and the World Wrestling Federation first began. For what feels like an eternity, the NWA and WWF have battled tooth and nail in an effort to convince the wrestling fan that one was better than the other.

In this space, we will now take a look at the NWA-WWF feud from several angles and attempt to settle this age old question once and for all!

ADMINISTRATION: Basically, it works out to Jim Crockett (NWA) vs. Vince McMahon (WWF). Both men obtained a great deal of their wrestling interest and connections from their fathers, but both have raised their respective associations to heights their papas would never have imagined. Crockett is just about always recognized as the NWA chief, while McMahon still contends that his sole purpose in the WWF is to announce, and that he has little knowledge of the federation's "inner workings". In addition to Crockett, men like Dusty Rhodes, Gene Anderson and brother David Crockett control most of the goings on. On the other hand, McMahon uses Jack Tunney in the role of "president" to make decisions. Tunney is a figurehead, nothing more. In addition, McMahon has numerous ex-wrestlers like Gorilla Monsoon, Tony Garea, and Lord Alfred Hayes on his staff. In short, neither organization has ever been willing to let the fans know exactly who is running the show.

WRESTLING TALENT: For the most part, all of the major stars in both federations have been successful elsewhere. Only NWA champion Ric Flair has stayed with virtually one organization. Hulk Hogan, for all of his publicity since joining the WWF, was once a major star in the AWA. Several of the top WWF stars, including Andre the Giant, Ted DiBiase, Ricky Steamboat, Rick Rude, Harley Race, and Greg Valentine, have all been stars in the NWA at one time. Meanwhile, Dusty Rhodes, Larry Zbyszko, Barry Windham and Mike Rotundo all experienced major success in the WWF. Newly-crowned WWF champ Randy "Macho Man" Savage was a star in the Southern promotions before joining McMahon. Even tag team kingpins Demolition are not, as you might believe, WWF discoveries. The man known as AX is in reality Bill Eadie, who gained worldwide fame as the Masked Superstar in past years, and Smash is none other than Barry Darsow, who worked as Krusher Khruschev in the NWA a while back. The former tag champions, Rick Martel & Tito Santana, achieved fame in the AWA and NWA, respectively, in recent years. Of Crockett's stars, Steve Williams was tops in the UWF for a long time, Larry Zbyszko headlined in both the WWF and AWA, and both the Road Warriors and Gorgeous Jimmy Garvin also started elsewhere.

When the UWF was taken over by the NWA, Williams, Sting, Rick Steiner, and Shane Douglas were retained by Crockett, while DiBiase, Hacksaw Duggan and the One Man Gang had already departed for the WWF. McMahon has also been using the AWA and the Continental association for a "farm system" lately. For instance, when the Rock & Roll Express left the NWA, it was a widely-known fact that they were bound for the WWF. However, since their departure, they have been relegated to the AWA and the CWA for the time being. By the time you read this, they might well be in the WWF, or might have returned to the NWA, although Crockett pulled a masterful stroke when he replaced Morton and Gibson with the Fantastics. Although McMahon deserves a lot of credit for getting the Rockers away from the NWA, Crockett made another spectacular splash when he lured former World Class champion Al Perez and manager Gary Hart into the fold.

PROMOTION: The WWF has put professional wrestling in front of more people than ever before. No question about that. McMahon's marriage of wrestling with rock music borders on genius, since he attracted many more young people, who have since become ardent fans. Also, the federation's liberal use of celebrities during their WrestleMania events has brought even more attention from non-wrestling quarters. And, of course, Hulk Hogan's face is familiar to millions, young and old, both wrestling and non-wrestling fans. While the WWF has gone more into the show business side of things, the NWA has always insisted on quality competition first and foremost, according to their spokesmen. While that may well be true in a lot of cases, the NWA has gotten a little silly in some of its gimmicks, too. If you thought Hulk Hogan was bigger than life, how about Lazer-Tron? Introduced as hailing from "Outer Space", and called "the protector of the children", Lazer-Tron won the NWA Jr. Heavyweight title late in 1987, then disappeared. For those of you who might not have known, the man under the Lazer-Tron guise was Hector Guerrero. While virtually all of the WWF stars are projected more for their image than their ability, the NWA is going overboard with the vision of the infamous "Four Horsemen". Individually, Ric Flair, Tully Blanchard, Arn Anderson, and James J. Dillon are experts at their trade, but the whole Horseman gimmick went off the deep end when a line of "Horsemen Power Formula" diet supplements was introduced in March. "The edge the Horsemen have on everyone else," said the promos for the new products. Give us a break!!

The WWF has often been criticized for treating the fans as if they have the intelligence of first-graders. When the whole Hogan-Andre the Giant feud began, WWF announcers constantly pounded home the "fact" that the two had never met before, when in reality, they had clashed on more than one occasion, in front of thousands. On the other hand, the NWA has come under fire from several directions for continuing to push Dusty Rhodes as main event material. When Rhodes' suspension for slugging Tully Blanchard with a ballbat was announced, some breathed a sigh of relief. Unfortunately, it was soon disclosed that the forgettable "Midnight Rider" was coming to the NWA. Folks, this has been used before, and it's still as bad as before. The Rider is simply Rhodes in a mask, and the whole gimmick stinks.

ANNOUNCERS: As a team, Mc-

Events such as these are virtually unknown to W.W.F. rings.

Mahon and Jesse Ventura aren't all that bad. McMahon is an excellent "blow-by-blow" announcer, and Ventura's pro-heel commentary, while a little ridiculous at times, gives the duo good balance. Gene Okerlund, while sometimes playing the role of stooge to the wrestlers, is very capable. Craig DeGeorge has potential, but Lord Alfred Hayes, a man who knows the business inside and out, remains unable to get his message across to the public most of the time. Please, let's don't even discuss Gorilla Monsoon.

While the WWF announcing is pretty good overall, the NWA gets the edge in this category. Top man Tony Schiavone has improved steadily since moving over from baseball, and gets better with experience. Bob Caudle, a veteran of more than 20 years behind the mike, is somewhat colorless, but still manages to make things interesting. Jim Ross, maybe the best catch the NWA made from the UWF, gets overly excited sometimes, but does well in other departments, including interviews. As for David Crockett, well, big brother Jim might do well to include his little brother on more telecasts. He lends an energy to TV events that no one else has yet produced.

One more thing on announcers. Don't you wish every ring announcer was as capable as the WWF's Howard Finkel? He makes even the dull shows more interesting with his introductions.

COMPETITION: The head-to-head confrontations have produced mixed results. Last fall, the WWF scheduled its "Survivor Series" in direct competition with the NWA's "Starrcade '87", and the result was a disaster for the WWF. Then, just as WrestleMania IV was raking in the publicity for McMahon, Crockett decided to schedule his "Clash of the Champions" on WTBS on the same day, at the same hour, even though television exposure for the NWA would be limited to cable homes only. While WM 4 was arguably the best of the two, the NWA got high marks for a well-staged program, highlighted by the Ric Flair-Sting title match.

For a long time, interviews have been dotted with "put-downs" and indirect derogatory remarks from one organization to the other. While this is all well and good, the scheduling of major events against each other cannot help the fans. However, don't be shocked if McMahon comes up with a counter for the NWA's annual "Great American Bash" tour this summer.

Incidentally, has anyone managed to figure out why, if the two associations hate each other so much, was it possible for Earl Hebner, who just happens to be employed by Crockett, to a major part of the WWF's February 5 Main Event program? His twin brother, Dave, was scheduled to officiate the Hogan-Andre match, but Earl worked the match instead, costing Hogan his belt, and so on.

ODDS AND ENDS: The NWA still has the annoying habit of closing out TV programs in the middle of the main event...The WWF has way too many managers...Tommy Young (NWA) and Joey Morella (WWF) are the two best officials... Where do men like Terry Taylor and Eddie Gilbert go when the NWA releases them?...Thank goodness that Missy Hyatt couldn't make the grade in either organization...Is it true that the WWF magazine listed Randy Savage as champion TWO WEEKS BEFORE he won the title? Officials say it was a misprint... Paul Jones is still a favorite manager, even though many haven't forgiven him for the horrendous "Hitler" gimmick a couple of years ago...Finally, since the WWF has taken over some of the southern promotions and the Pacific Northwest area, and the NWA has consumed the UWF and Florida, why have neither association tried to buy out Vern Gagne? Are they saying that the smaller federations are more valuable to them than Vern's AWA?□

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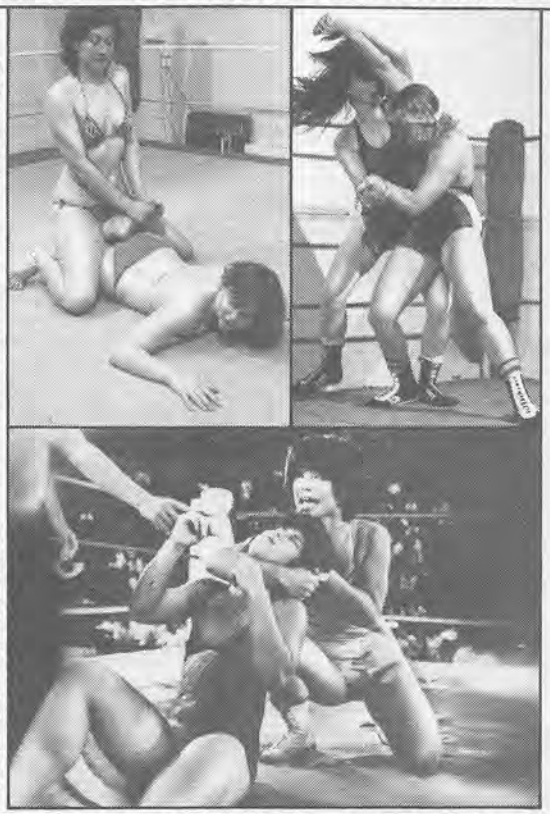

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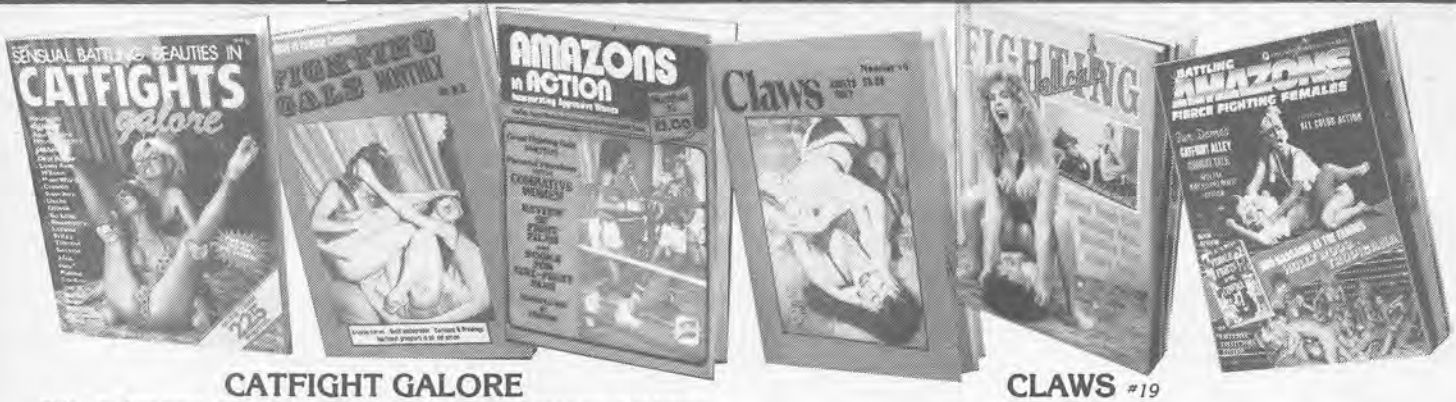

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HEAVY- WEIGHT CRYSTAL BALL

No one can deny that the Hulkster is one tough man.

HOGAN WILL RETURN AS CHAMP

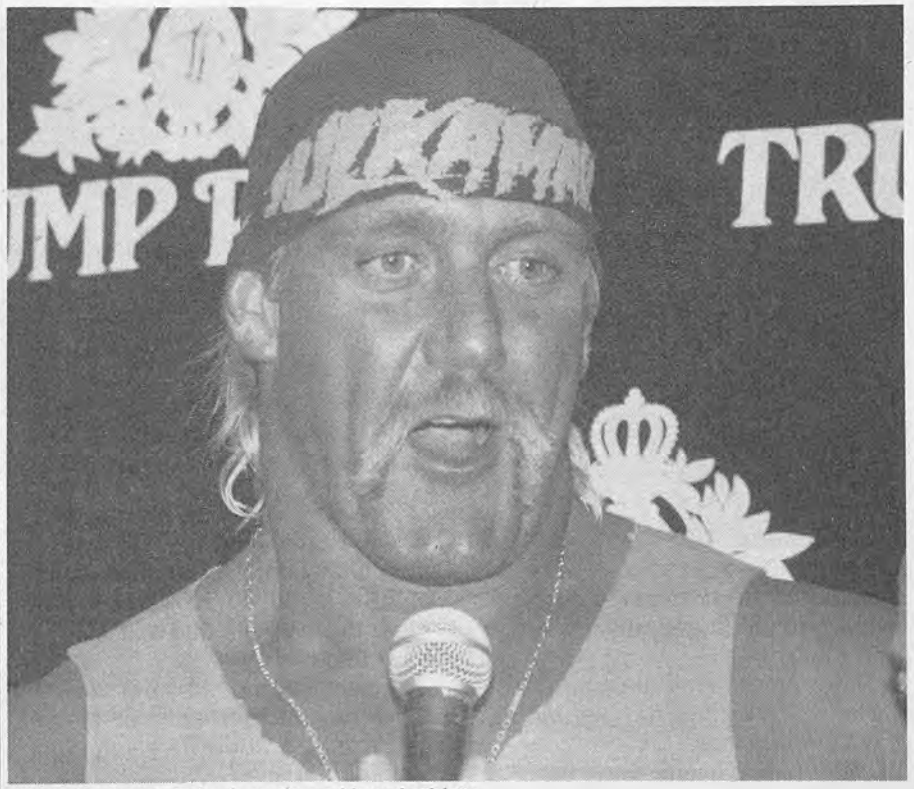
By Don Laible

Photos By DeSpirito

Destiny. Strategic marketing. Unavoidable. However you look at the World Wrestling Federation Heavyweight scenario, the title change has been a resemblance of "musical chairs". The organization held an elimination, invitation only, tournament at The Trump Plaza and Casino in Atlantic City, New Jersey this past March to crown that they labeled "the undisputed" world title holder. All the WWF top names such as Rick Rude, Randy Savage, Butch Reed, Andre the Giant, and Hulk Hogan were vying for the coveted title belt and all the prestige that accompanies being declared the winner in the championship round. The majority of fans and wrestling personalities didn't pick the Hulkster or Andre to come out on top of the pack to win the title. There was a minority of experts that clearly saw Ted DiBiase coming out of the tournament wearing the gold around his waist.

However, an overwhelming majority correctly, tabbed Randy "Macho Man" Savage as the heir apparent to Hogan's throne. With no hesitation, those who knew Savage would be champ also are every bit as confident that by the end of August, Hogan would once again reign supreme in WWF land.

It came as no surprise when "The Macho Man", accompanied by his lovely manager Elizabeth, had his hand raised in victory in Atlantic City for several reasons. There was much talk by those in the wrestling game and in the film industry that come Spring, Hogan would be involved in his first motion picture. Not only would Hogan be starring in a film but he and his wife were to have their first child by the end of April. With so much of his time being absorbed in interests outside of wrestling, where would he find the time to tangle with opponents on the mat? For the past four years the Hulk has been enduring a travel schedule that even to the most active frequent flyer would appear as a



Wrestling's most charismatic and loved athlete.

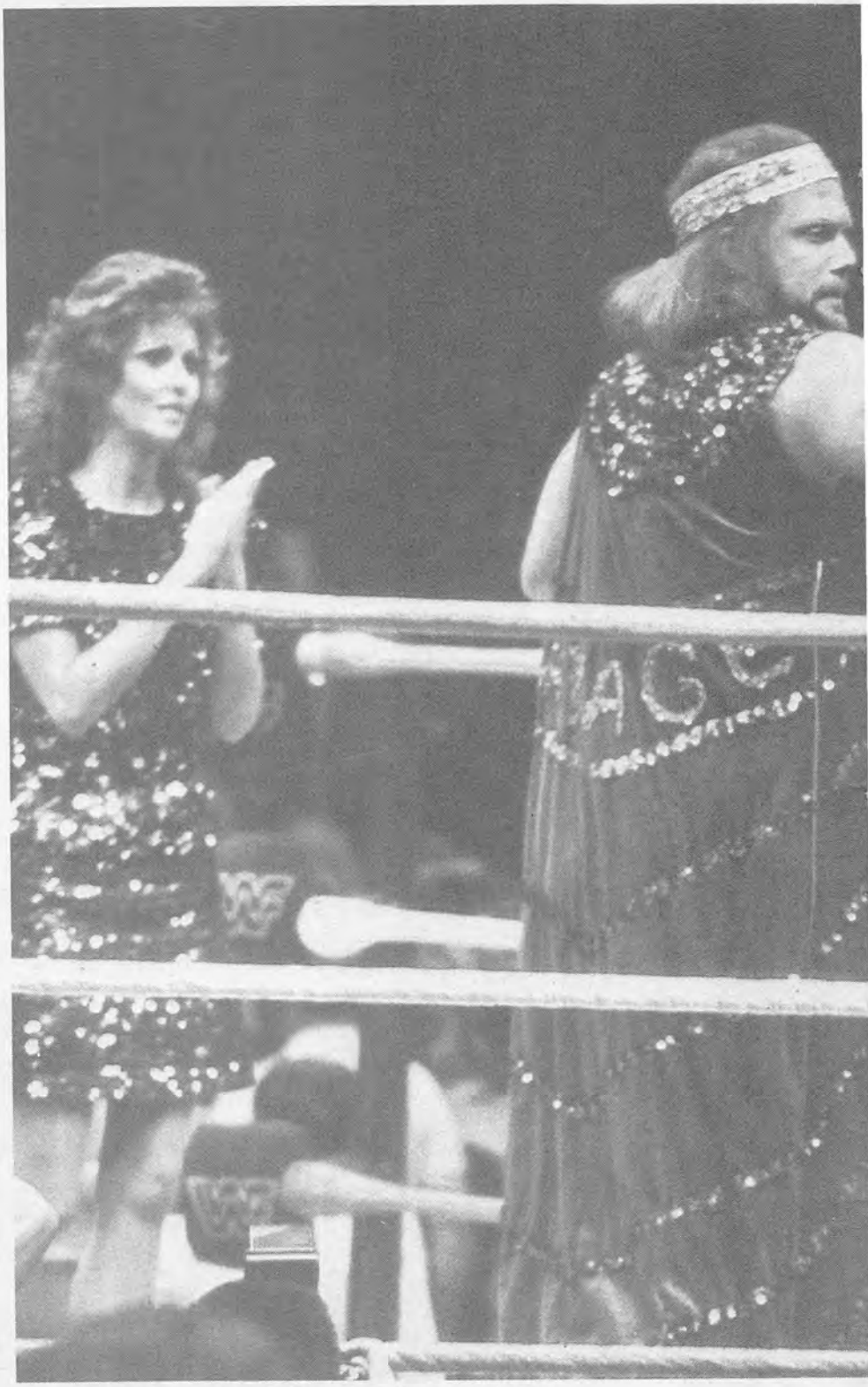
nightmare. The wear and tear on his body from punishing blows inflicted by his opponents have worn Hogan down. To put it clearly, Hulk Hogan was deserving and in need of a long, overdue rest.

In the case of Randy Savage, the momentum was riding high in his favor. With toughly fought battles with The Honkytonk Man, One Man Gang and Harley Race, the "Macho Man" was in prime shape, physically as well as mentally, to go for the gold. Next to the Hulkster, no one in the WWF was even close to being able to draw the capacity crowds as Savage did successfully. With Hogan out of the scene for a couple of months, the promoters were in need of a box-office savior, someone to handle the public demands for another champion of charisma. With Hogan slowing down a bit in the ring, and at times not performing up to the level of greatness he once demonstrated, not many expected him to win three or four matches in

Ted DiBiase will wear the gold for a while.

the tournament, which is what it would have taken to get to the final round. He didn't get past the second round.

Now enter the middle man, Ted DiBiase. "The Million Dollar Man" has come up ever so short on a number of occasions when the WWF Championship has been up



Savage will not have to wrestle Hogan in a championship bout.

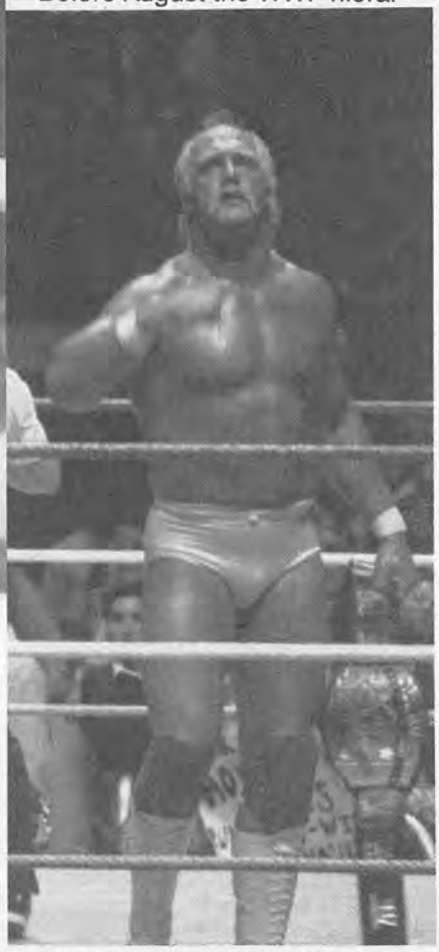
for grabs. But, finally, his day will arrive. Hogan, Savage, DiBiase than finally back around the waist of the 6'5" 300 lb. Hulkster, is the route in which the title belt will have traveled.

For several months now, the WWF has planned another all-out glitzy, star-studded wrestling affair slated to be seen by millions on a closed circuit and pay-per-view basis. Obviously, a show of such magnitude would not feature the usual cast of WWF characters. More precisely, it will mark the triumphant return to the wrestling wars for Hulk Hogan. Will he be forced to challenge his good friends Savage and Elizabeth, as opponents, in order to win back the title that many feel was robbed from by DiBiase in the first place?

Now way! Somehow, some way, "The Million Dollar Man" will strip Savage of his laurels and be declared the new WWF pinking. Always crafty and manipulative, it wouldn't be the first time Ted stole or bought, whichever term you feel more comfortable with, his way to the top. There has been bad blood, to put it mildly, between DiBiase and Savage since Ted was handed the WWF Championship when his henchman, Andre the Giant took it away from Hogan last February. Talk about controversy, the match with Hogan and Andre was full of it.

'That man's as dirty as a pig in mud. Everyone saw that Andre didn't have Hogan's shoulders pinned for a three count. DiBiase secured the services, better yet, he bribed WWF Referee Dave Hebner's twin brother Earl, himself an accomplished ring official for years with the National Wrestling Alliance, to illegally enter the ring and confuse the situation by counting to three for the alleged pin by Andre. That got us mad. Guys in the dressing room finally had enough of DiBiase's underhanded tricks. My brother Randy, from that day on, declared war on DiBiase and his valet Virgil. Randy told me, if he won the championship tournament, he wouldn't duck from signing for a match with DiBiase. Right off, I warned him, don't go by the rulebook when squaring off with Ted, he isn't an honorable man', "Leaping" Lanny Poffo said before a match in Amsterdam, New York.

Before August the WWF hierarchy will match up Savage and DiBiase, for all the marbles, as the saying goes. Being true to his track record of deception, sad to say, Ted DiBiase will be declared the next WWF heavyweight champion. The wrestling crystal ball goes further to predict, as expected, Hogan will conquer the evil DiBiase. None of those predictions are chiseled in stone but it's a safe a bet as one could hope for.



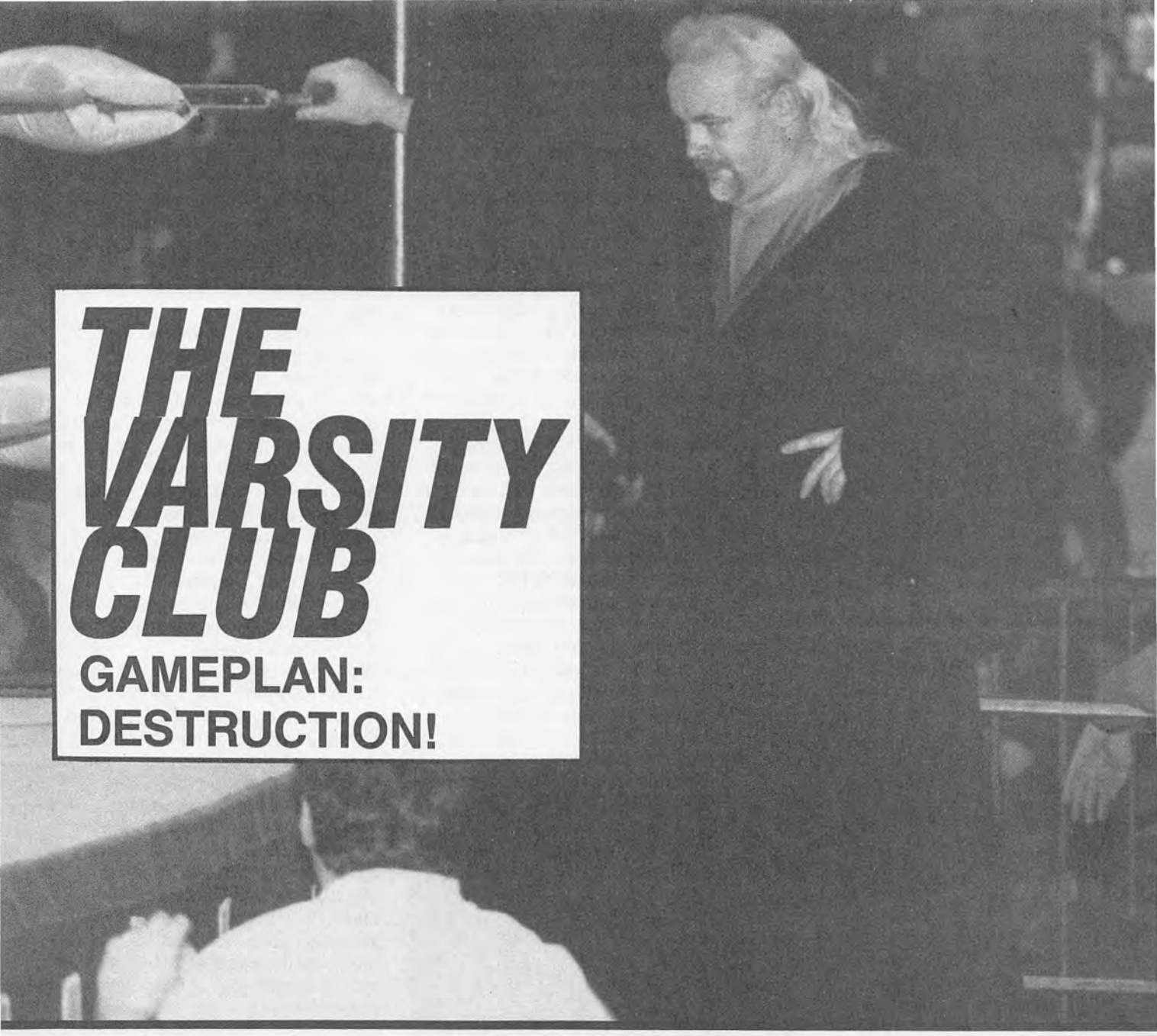
Hogan will soon be champ again.

'There is no way the two can avoid a clash. Ted wants what Randy won. Randy doesn't have a price in which he can be manipulated. It's a real stalemate. Like millions of other wrestling fans, I'm looking forward to a match between them. Randy would go into the confrontation as the favorite but don't count Ted out just yet. DiBiase has been called a lot of things since entering the WWF, most of which he deserves, but the fact of the matter is, he is an excellent technical wrestler. You couple Ted's skills along with his "bag of tricks" and it becomes almost impossible to beat him', Cowboy Bob Orton, Jr. stated while visiting promoters in Boston, Massachusetts.

When, where and how isn't known or extremely important. What is vital is that Savage will not have to go down in defeat, in order for the Hulkster to win back his place as the WWF's "head honcho". Let's hope DiBiase doesn't severely injure Savage or his beautiful sidekick Elizabeth. With all the money floating out of DiBiase's pockets to those who are willing to assist him in his cause to finally and legally be recognized as the true WWF heavyweight champion, no "stones" will be left unturned by Ted.

Savage is already looking over his shoulder in the ring, the arena parking lots and when entering or leaving his home. War has been declared by DiBiase and the "Macho Man" is his enemy.

Thus far, Savage has been an honorable champion and a model athlete. Fully cognizant of his every move being watched and perhaps copied, Randy Savage continues to uphold the fine tradition as a champion wrestler to be proud of. In time, Savage's greatness, like Hogan, will be remembered as a man who carved out a place in wrestling history the old fashion way—he earned it.



THE VARSITY CLUB

GAMEPLAN: DESTRUCTION!

By Tom Clutters
Photos By Despirito

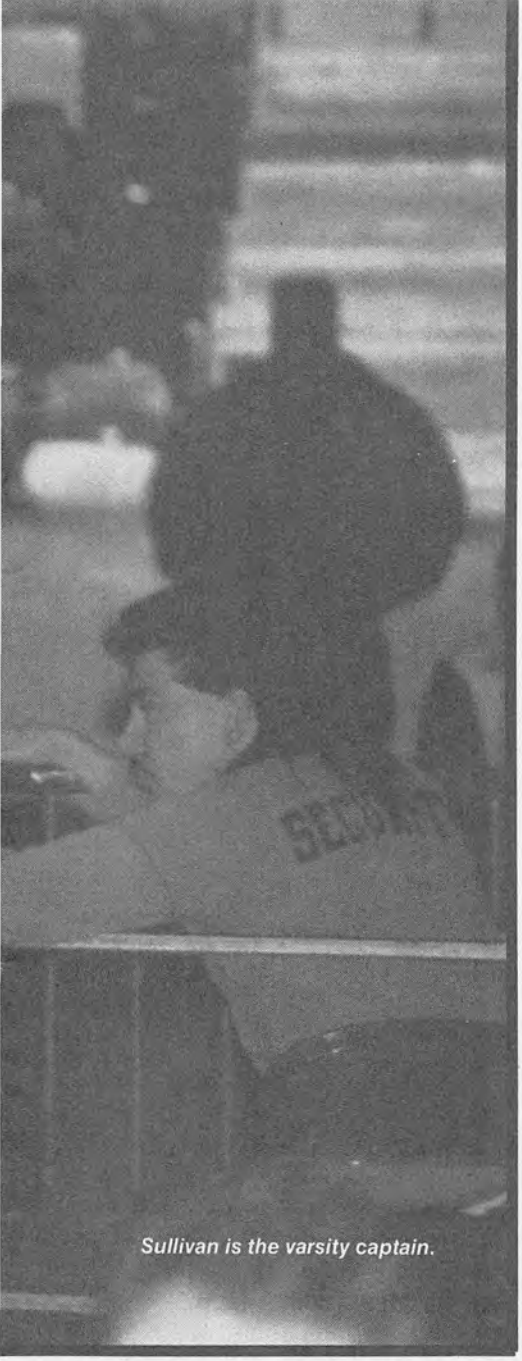
Everyone knew that Kevin Sullivan was up to something.

When Wrestling's unpredictable madman returned to the National Wrestling Alliance in late 1987, he did little to cause suspicion or trouble. He merely wrestled occasionally, spoke briefly and politely during interviews, and made only general comments on other competitors. He was even starting to hear some cheers from the fans who had hated and feared him for so many years. It wasn't long, however, before Sullivan began to appear at ringside more often, taking mental notes on several of the alliance's young athletes. His interest soon narrowed to two certain youngsters, namely Mike Rotundo and Rick Steiner.

Rotundo, a former Syracuse University star, had seen a lot of success during his pro career, including a reign as WWF tag team champion with Barry Windham. Steiner, from the University of Michigan, was somewhat of an enigma as a professional, with the majority of his fame coming from his days in the UWF. Sullivan recognized that neither man's career was heading in any certain direction. Rotundo was a talented but rather boring babyface. Steiner was a hard-working but colorless heel. In these two men Sullivan saw the makings of what was to eventually become the Varsity Club.

Since his "conversion" to Satan-worship around 1981, Kevin Sullivan has had a vast influence on a number of other wrestlers, some with tragic results. A few, like Hacksaw Duggan, Jake Roberts, and Superstar Bill Graham, were able to get away and salvage control of their own lives and careers. Others such as Mark Lewin, Bob Roop and Buzz Sawyer, fell under his spell, and were ruined. His powers extended to the distaff side of the sport with Angel "Luna" Vachon and the Fallen Angel both serving their master for extended periods of time.

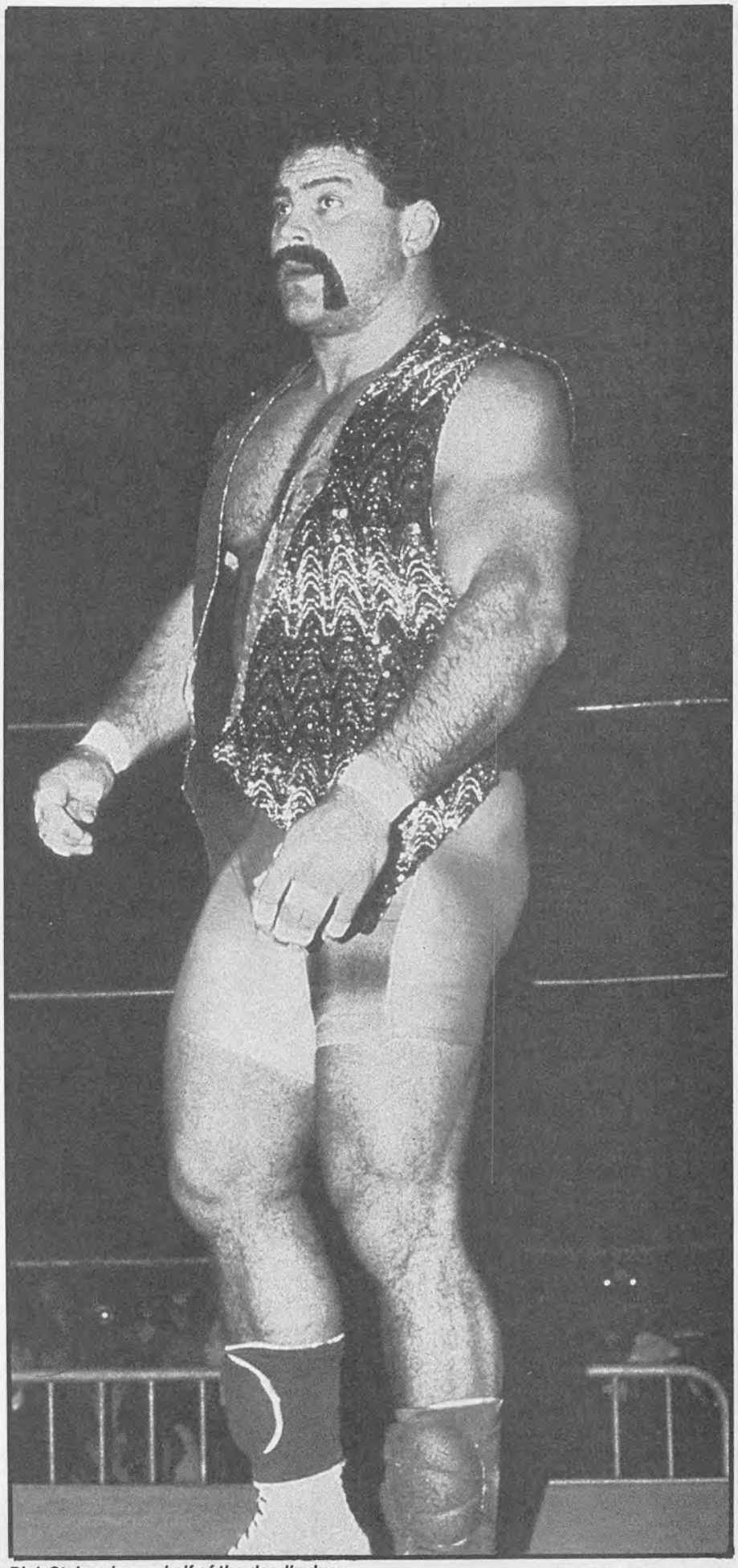
Now, it was time for new blood. Slowly but surely, Sullivan gained the confidence of Rotundo and Steiner. They listened intently to his promises of fame and fortune, and soon they fell into the trap. All



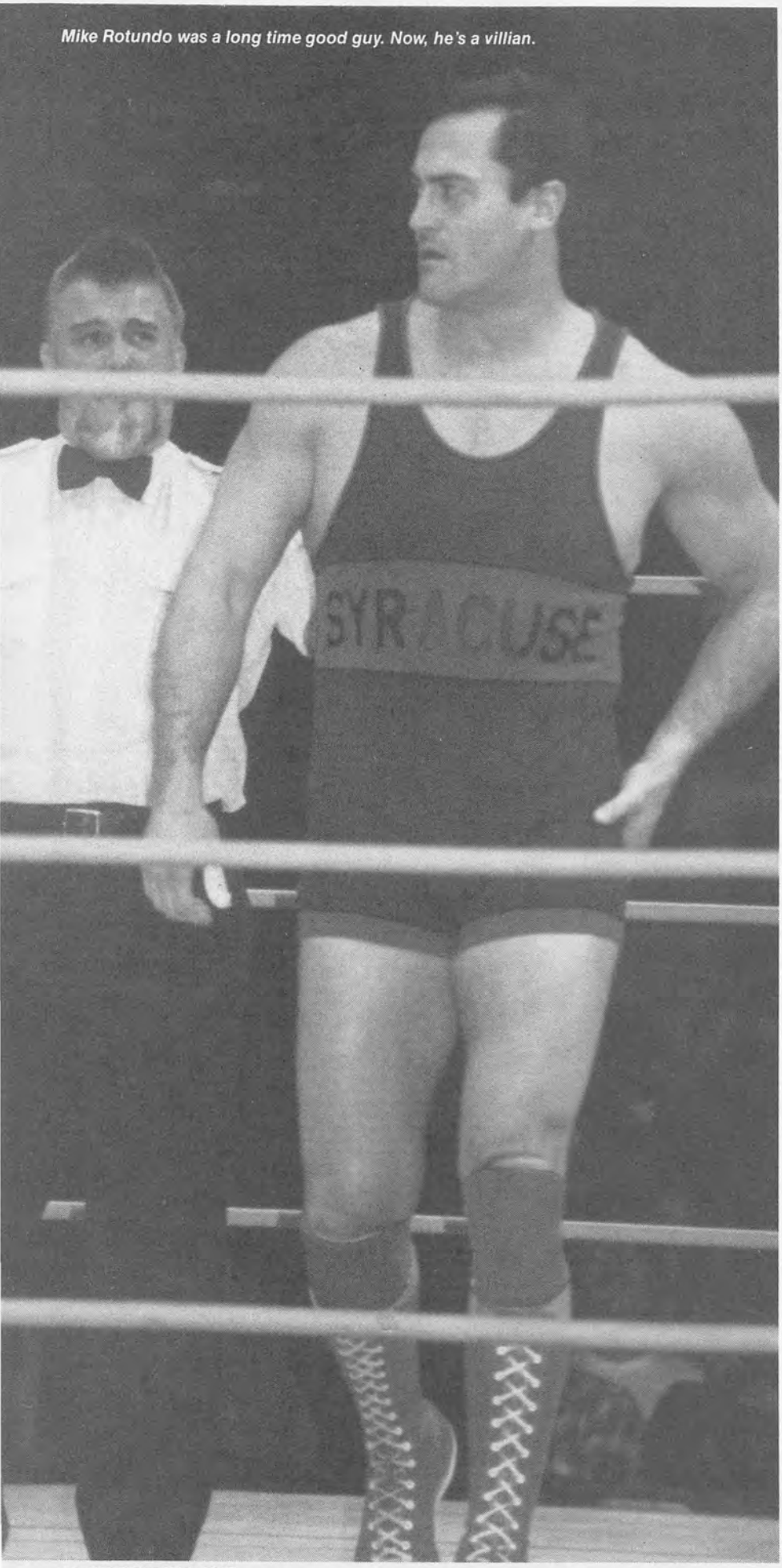
Sullivan is the varsity captain.

three men vanished from the NWA scene for several weeks, and suddenly reappeared as the Varsity Club, with the "Gamesmaster" (Sullivan) leading the way. Dressed in amateur-style singlets in their respective school colors, Rotundo and Steiner immediately made it clear that they weren't the same as when they left. It was apparent that Sullivan had complete control of his men and their ring tactics. Steiner, while always a roughhouser, was now more vicious than ever, and Rotundo, at one time the "boy next door" type, had become a savage and devious personality, exhibiting foul tactics never seen before.

"What you are seeing is two young men who have decided to take control of their own careers,"



Rick Steiner is one half of the deadly duo.



Mike Rotundo was a long time good guy. Now, he's a villian.

Sullivan goes after ultra-enemy, Jim Garvin.

proclaimed Sullivan. "Mike Rotundo and Rick Steiner are tremendous athletes, but they have spent their wrestling years listening to the wrong people, people who were not really interested in helping them become stars. We have agreed that I will teach and advise these two men, but they will still have the final say." While it all sounded good, it was clear that the Gamesmaster was in total control, and that Rotundo and Steiner had become machines designed only to fulfill his plans, whatever they might be.

The Varsity Club first set its sights on Nikita Koloff and the World TV title. Rotundo, who already held the Florida championship, was designated to challenge the popular Russian. After several matches, Sullivan succeeded in interfering enough to allow Rotundo to capture the title. Suddenly, those fans and even other wrestlers who had originally chuckled at the Club's appearance were

forced to sit up and take notice. During one of their first interviews after defeating Koloff, Sullivan ordered Rotundo to hand over the Florida belt to Steiner, whose feelings were being wounded by Kevin's "favoritism" towards Rotundo. The gift seemed to soothe Steiner's pride, and all was well once again. While NWA officials insisted that Rotundo was still the Florida champion, they allowed Steiner to keep the belt.

"I think the Varsity Club has proven a point," said Sullivan. "We said we were going to beat Nikita Koloff, and we did. Those of you out there who know me know full well that each and every promise that I make, I keep. Mike Rotundo and Rick Steiner have went through pure hell to become the charter members of the Varsity Club. I have made them promises, all of which have come true. They trust me, they believe in me. I am proud to say that I have one of the world's most devious minds, and who knows what we might try next!"

As the weeks have worn on, however, it looks like a rift of jealousy has developed between Steiner and Rotundo. Never one to do a lot of yelling and screaming, Steiner has, from time to time, let it be known that he is aware of Rotundo's "favorite son" status, and that he doesn't like it. Several times, Sullivan has had to physically intercede when Steiner and Rotundo engaged in one of their shoving matches. After a stern warning from the master, Steiner backs off. "Rick Steiner knows that Mike Rotundo is the number one member of the Varsity Club," Sullivan stated. "Steiner knows this, and he accepts it. He may be a little jealous at times, but a little competition between them is healthy. These two men are the greatest in wrestling today. If you watch them in the ring, you must realize that. Whatever goes on outside the ring is of little concern."

Indeed, inside the ring, the Varsity Club has few peers in terms of combining wrestling knowledge and cruelty. Individually or as a team, Sullivan, Rotundo and Steiner care little about winning or losing. Their primary interest is to inflict punishment. "We just like to hurt people," says Rotundo. "We don't care who it is, we just like to inflict pain."

No one can say for certain what warped turn the Varsity Club's path will take next. One object of the Club's wrath recently has been Gorgeous Jimmy Garvin and Precious. According to Sullivan, both of them have been his "associates" in past years. "Jimmy Garvin and I go way back. We ran the streets of Singapore night after night, and I taught him many of life's dark secrets. Now that I have returned, and called his name, he has denied me as if I don't even exist. For denying me, Jimmy Garvin, you will have to pay a dear price. As for the woman called Precious, well, I don't believe that her kind has any place in wrestling," Sullivan stated. "Years ago, this woman was known to me as Patti, not as Precious. She too, knew me well, and also denies me. You can write it down. Both of them will pay."

One of the Varsity Club's favorite weapons has been a coat hanger, which they have used, not only on Garvin, but on Barry Windham and Lex Luger as well. Why would Sullivan and his charges jump on the NWA tag team champions? First off, Luger was one of many wrestlers who refused to become involved with Sullivan in the past. While dominating the Florida scene, Luger was approached by Sullivan, and turned him down flat. Sullivan vowed revenge. Being Lugers' friend was one strike against Windham as far as the varsity club was concerned. Secondly, Barry is Blackjack Mulligan's son, and the Sullivan-Mulligan feud is legendary. Both Barry and brother Kendall were involved in Florida wars for some time, and the scars remained.

The Varsity Club first tried to choke the life from Windham during a nationally-televised match. Luger saved the day on that occasion, and Windham has had to return the favor other times. Windham was stunned to discover that Rotundo, his long-time friend, was the most vicious of all three attackers. "I have no idea what's happened to Rotundo," said Windham. "He and I have been friends for quite a while, and now he tries to kill me."

Also in the picture is Sting, a top contender for Ric Flair's NWA title, and also a close friend of Windham and Luger. The Stinger also promises to become a target, since he and Steiner were at one time the UWF tag team champions. "Listen, Steiner never was too bright, but Sullivan has turned him into a psycho or something," he said. "I've told Barry and Lex, if they need my help, I'll be there."

Everything Kevin Sullivan does is by design. He always has a plan. Certainly, he's not called the Gamesmaster for nothing. Each move, each event, is the result of long and careful consideration. To that end, no one can predict where the future of the Varsity Club will end up. "We will seek out new members," said Sullivan. "They will be trained thoroughly, and will have to pass stringent tests before they can join us. Before you know it, the Varsity Club will be the most powerful force in wrestling, and I will have total control."

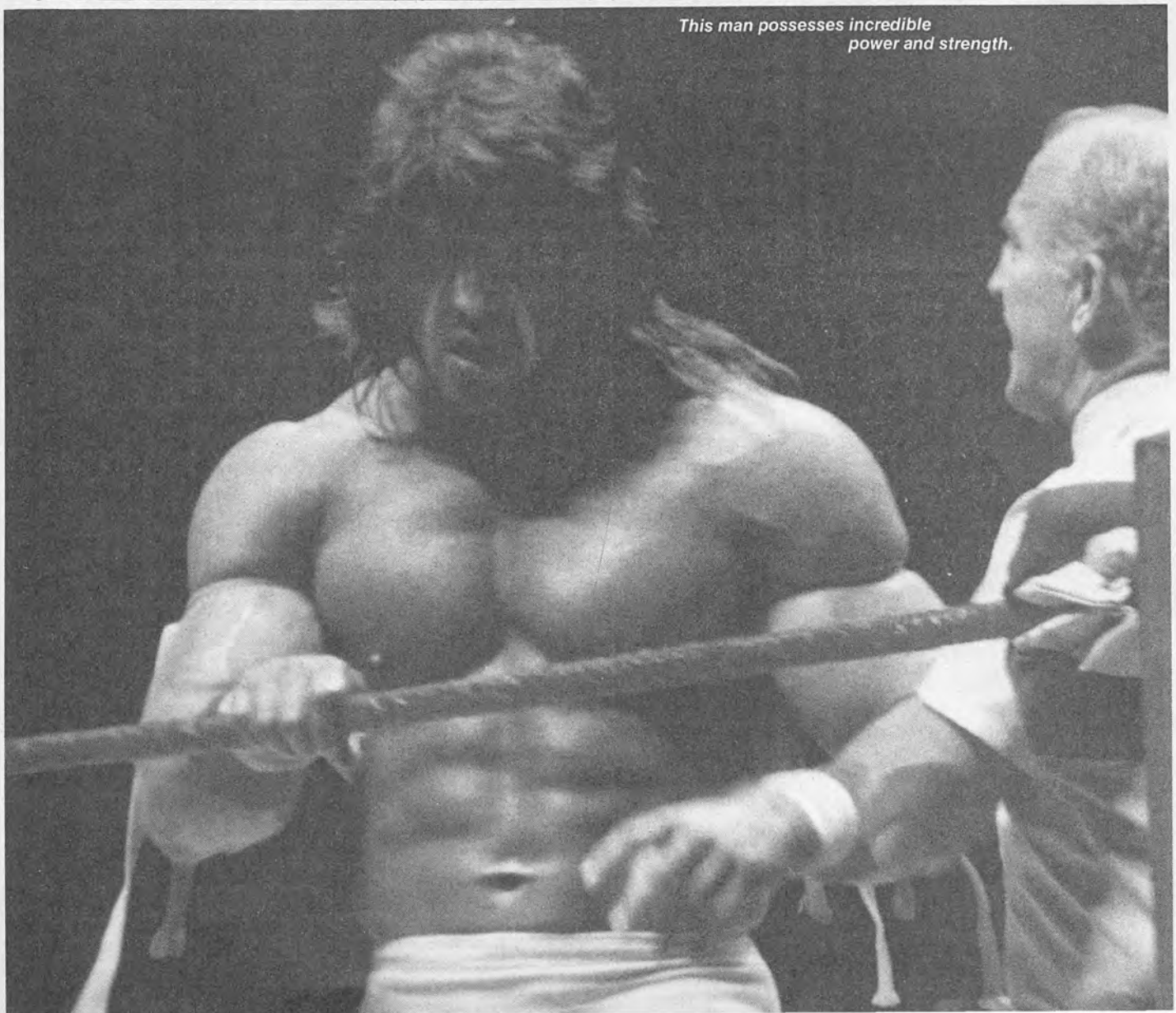
Such a possibility should send chills down the spine of any sane person.

THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR

"HERCULES WILL FALL TO ME!"

By Don Laible

You bet he's mad. Hercules Hernandez, a member of Bobby Heenan's wrestling stable, attempted to humiliate and purposely cause severe injury to The Ultimate Warrior during a chain match. Granted, a grappler that signs for a match of this caliber knows full well what the highly probable consequences are. Having each participant handcuffed by a leather strap attached to a steel chain is not a match for those with weak stomachs to view. With only one hand free, it is more times than not utilized to wrap the chain around an opponents body, to cause gashes in hopes they will lead to a submission by one of the participants. Again, that type of behavior is expected going into such a brutal matchup. However, that wasn't the case when Hercules, Heenan's number one henchman,



This man possesses incredible power and strength.

proceeded to settle a score with the muscle-bound Warrior. Instead of putting the feud to rest, the hatred between the two champion athletes has ignited and intensified.

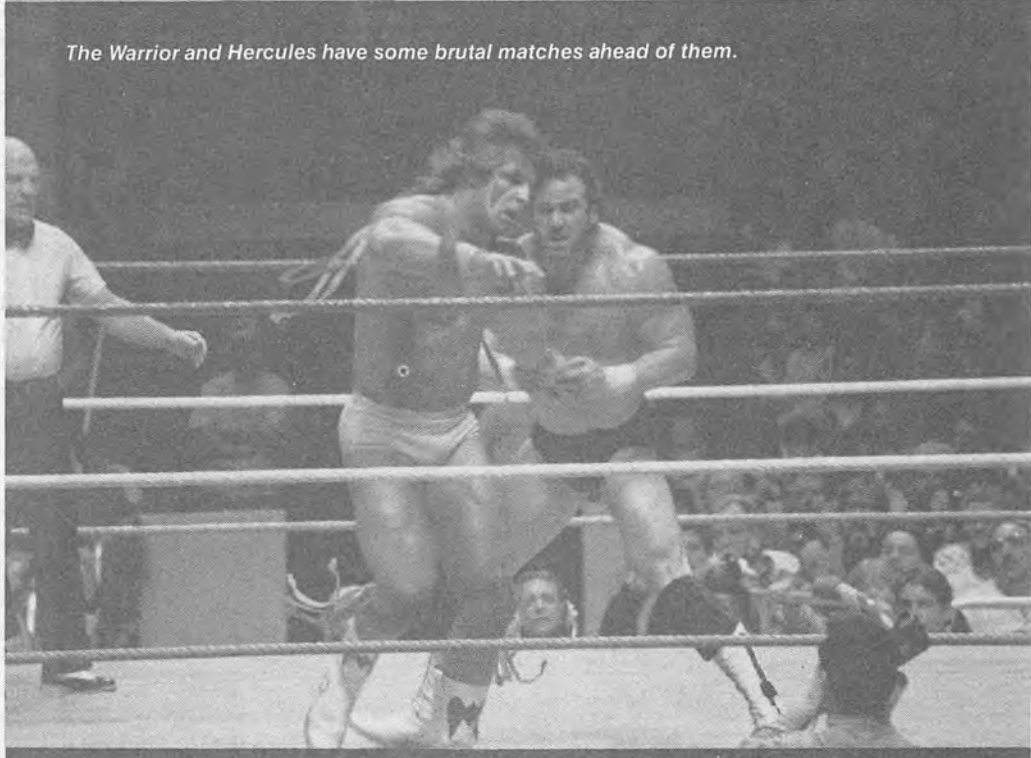
Since his early days in the World Wrestling Federation under the guidance of Fred Blassie, Hercules prides himself in being among, if not being the strongest individual in the organization. There is no denying the fact that he is powerful. Hercules has hoisted 300 lb. fellow wrestlers such as Hulk Hogan over his head with little strain. For the past two years, the word was out in the WWF, don't mess with Hernandez. The public attention and media spotlight have been a fixture on Hercules. That is until the emergence of The Ultimate Warrior, that is when jealousy appeared to set in on Hercules' part.

'He loves to lift weights, cars, refrigerators, anything that's heavy. Man, let me tell you The Ultimate Warrior is an animal at fitness centers. I've spotted for him on occasions. I felt useless. The Warrior didn't need my assistance or anyone else's. When he wrestled in Texas, The Warrior captured the Texas Heavyweight Championship by defeating Ted Arcidi. That's quite an accomplishment since Ted has lifted over 700 lbs. in the weightroom. With each workout in the gym and ring, he's becoming wrestling's total package', Tito Santana said while awaiting his match in Buffalo, New York.

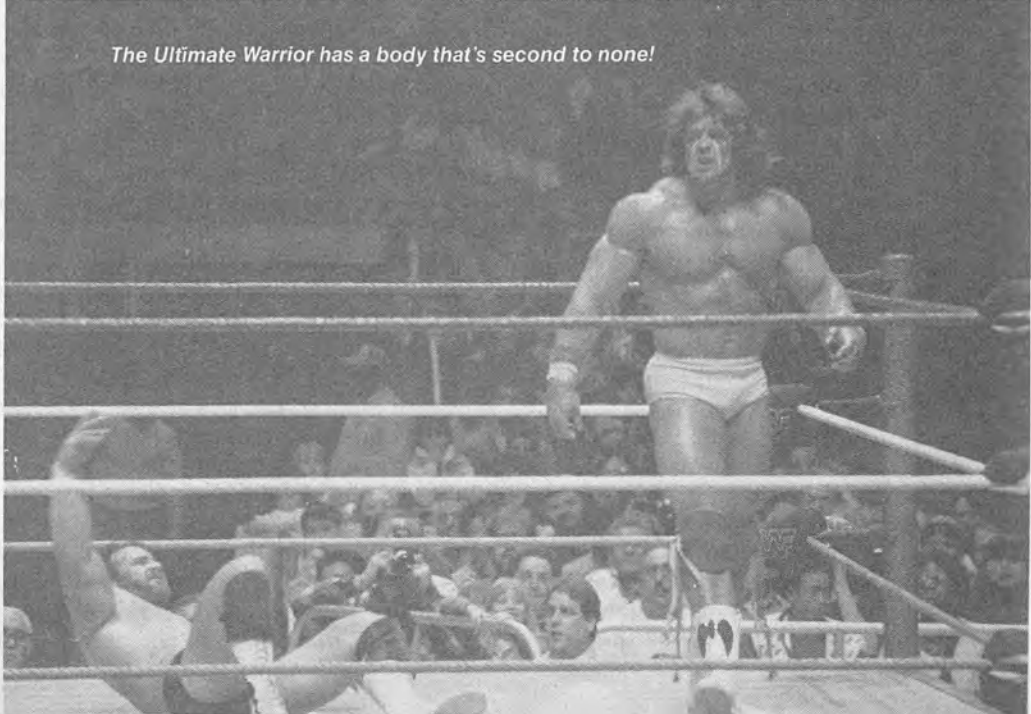
It's that tremendous amount of strength The Ultimate Warrior possesses which causes anger in Hernandez to come to a boiling point. With draws and double disqualifications resulting in match after match between the two gladiators, both parties requested and were granted by WWF President Jack Tunney, a chain match. From a fans perspective, this match seemed right up Hercules' alley. He has always carried chains into the ring neatly placed round his well developed neck. However, with youth and an edge in stamina, The Ultimate Warrior couldn't properly be placed in the "underdog" position.

Many wrestlers as well as fans on hand for this match anticipated a long, knock down-drag out blood battle. For either man to be declared the winner, he would have to

The Warrior and Hercules have some brutal matches ahead of them.



The Ultimate Warrior has a body that's second to none!



Totally ripped! (photo by M. LePore)

dominate his opponent severely enough to drag the fallen foe all around the ring, going from corner to corner. As you can imagine that wouldn't be an easy task. Sad to say, from a fan's standpoint, none of that anticipated wildness came to me. Well, not all of it, that is.

The excitement was rapidly coming to a head, with the referee fastening both men to the chain. Many of the wrestlers also appearing on that evening's program made their way from the dressing room to the ringside area for a clear view of the ensuing battle. 'The Ultimate Warrior from Queens, New York, has come on to the wrestling scene like wild fire. His wrestling skills have improved tremendously. He is no longer thought of as a one dimensional performer. It was his power that in the past carried him through some tough matches. Now, with instructions from guys such as Don Muraco, Rick Martel and Brian Blair, along with myself, The Ultimate Warrior brings a well balanced attack, with him into the ring. He's going places in this sport', former WWF World Champion Pedro Morales stated as he jockeyed for position to get an unobstructed birdseye view of the chain match.

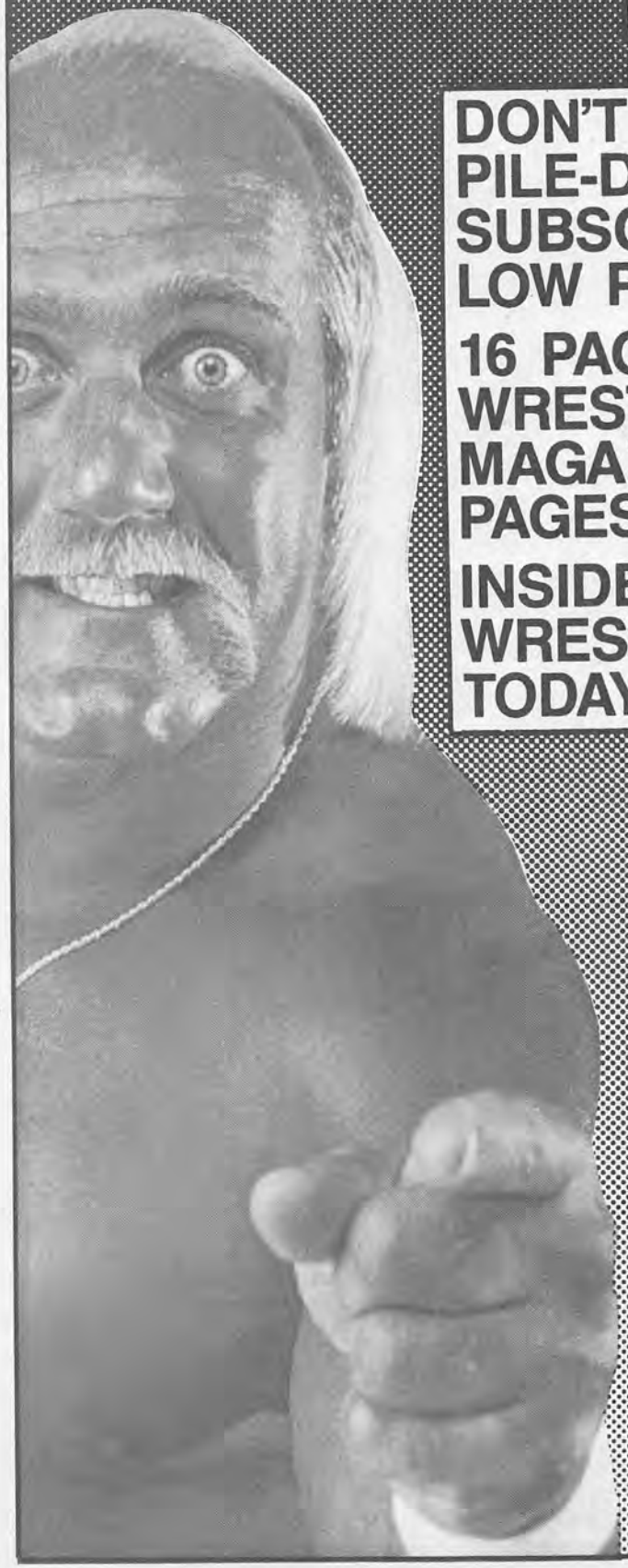
The bell rang. The match began. After a minute or two of a staredown, Hernandez attempted to tug his opponent towards him. Like a boulder, The Ultimate Warrior didn't budge. That in itself was amazing and put a face of disbelief on a dumbfounded Hercules. As the saying goes, you ain't seen nothing yet, so did the match. Now it was the Queens' native's turn to make a move. And what an eye opening action it was. In one yank on the chain, The Ultimate Warrior literally broke the string of steel in half!

With all onlookers going wild over such an astonishing feat of strength, Hernandez, obviously embarrassed, retaliated in the only fashion he knew. He clutched his half of the chain with one hand and began to swing it wildly at The Ultimate Warrior. With all the chaos taking place in the ring, the referee was helpless in attempting to stop the action. Hernandez whipped his opponent across the back and head, until The Ultimate Warrior was near unconsciousness. Repeatedly driving the chain into his opponent from every which way put The Ultimate Warrior in a position to no longer be able to defend himself. Some felt this match would be one sided, however not in such a manner.

Several wrestlers charged the ring to separate the two. It took three men to pull Hercules off The Ultimate Warrior. When The Ultimate Warrior began to regain his wits, he attempted to attack Hernandez like a maniac. More wrestlers and officials were needed to restrain the Warrior. What a brawl! When the two combatants were finally separated and returned to their dressing rooms, there was a certain buzzing amongst the fans on what they had just witnessed. Everyone knew the hatred and frustration between The Ultimate Warrior and Hercules Hernandez had just hit an all-time high and showed no signs of coming down.

'Hernandez is one tough character, I'm not selling him short but there's no amount of money that he or anyone could offer me to be in his boots now. When we finally calmed down The Ultimate Warrior he said Hercules was his public enemy number one and wouldn't rest until he paid back Heenan's wrestler for the near career ending stunt he had just pulled', a serious KoKo B. Ware said.

Where and when the score between Hercules and The Ultimate Warrior will be settled is anyone's guess. One fact is as clear as can be. It won't be pretty. Perhaps the ring will need to be reinforced. All hell will definitely break loose.



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"J.J. DILLON"

"THE HORSEMEN'S MASTER STRATEGIST"

By Don Liable

He didn't get into the position as the premiere manager in all of professional wrestling today by a fluke. The prestige and success he enjoys didn't come overnight for him but through years of paying his dues. Originally from New Jersey, James J. Dillon, better known among the pro circuits as JJ, has become the pillar of strength of wrestling's toughest inner circle—The Four Horsemen of the National Wrestling Alliance. NWA World Heavyweight Champion Ric Flair, Arn Anderson, Tully Blanchard, and a newly named fourth member of the group Barry Windham have prospered greatly due to Dillon's masterful mind when dealing with athletics and in the financial world.

'He had done it all, wrestle, manage, promote and ring announce. There isn't a single facet of wrestling that JJ doesn't know inside and out. That's why he's on top in this sport and everything and everyone he gets involved with also succeeds. He's been a student of professional wrestling for over twenty years. There's an abundance of gratitude among the Horsemen towards our manager. JJ is the glue that keeps us solidly together in good times and in slumps', Arn Anderson proclaimed from the locker room in the Charlotte Coliseum.

It was in Texas during the early 1970's that Dillon's career as a wrestler peaked. At one point in 1973, JJ held the Texas Heavyweight Championship and the state's Brass Knucks Title simultaneously. Capturing the Texas belt from Terry Funk in Lubbock is an accomplishment JJ isn't shy to speak of. 'When I started following wrestling as a fan, I'd buy all the magazines and collect pictures of the greats. Bruno Sammartino, Buddy Rogers and Dory Funk, Sr. were heroes of mine. Once I began to wrestle, I was fortunate to get a contract from the NWA office in Amarillo. Now, anybody who's followed the world of wrestling knows that has traditionally been the home base of the Funk family. Both Dory, Jr. and Terry are past holders of the NWA world title. You can't say enough complimentary things about that family, they have always done one thing real well and that's just plain old wrestle.

When the promoters informed me after a match in which I defeated Cyclone Negro that I was next in line for a shot at Terry's Texas title, I was in awe. With average skill and a lot of luck, I won the match and the belt from Terry Funk that night. It was like a dream come true. That has to be my top highlight as a wrestler', JJ said while preparing his men for matches in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Since the NWA is viewed by millions of fans several times a week thanks to their affiliation with the Turner Broadcasting Cable Television Network and with their weekly televised matches appearing on more than 200 stations in the United States, Dillon's talents as a managerial mastermind have become more widely appreciated. His main function is to divert as much outside distractions from his wrestlers to enable them to better concentrate on their work inside the ring.

Thus far, JJ's way of doing business have paid off royally for those

The early days along with Buddy Landell.

The 'strategist' J.J. wraps the hand of Tully Blanchard.

in his stable. Ric Flair remains the pinking of the NWA, Arn and Tully have held the NWA Tag Team Championship and before Lex Luger vacated his position as a Horseman, Lex "Flex" dethroned Dusty Rhodes for the United States Heavyweight Title. Some claim Dillon's mouth runs a bit too much at times, whether at ringside or during a press conference, but the fact of the matter is, he has backed up all of his promises.

What's good for The Horsemen is good for pro wrestling, in general is a theme widely agreed on by fans and many wrestlers alike. 'When JJ brings one or all of his wrestling "thoroughbreds" to my towns, especially at The Omni in Atlanta, we can count on a sell-out or near capacity crowd every month. I've seen JJ work his wrestlers hard in the gym and on the

J.J. and close associate Ric Flair.

practice mats, he hates the idea of losing or being second in anything. To JJ, it's the results that matter. He's like what Vince Lombardi was to the Green Bay Packers as a coach', NWA Promoter Fred Mard said.

Cities such as Boston, Philadelphia and Baltimore, all traditional promotional strongholds of the NWA's arch rival the World Wrestling Federation, have slowly but surely become NWA towns and more specifically JJ's stomping grounds. Dillon has seen his men score several important victories in those towns. In those East Coast arenas, once foreign to JJ and the rest of the NWA, tee-shirts bearing The Four Horsemen and JJ are the hottest selling item. Instead of cheering on Dusty Rhodes or Ron Garvin, traditionally two fan favorites, the two grapplers receive choruses of boos and other uncomplimentary remarks. Why, you may ask? In the traditional sense, JJ and his wrestlers have been tagged as rulebreakers or villians, but there is something in the way Dillon presents his product that has made them hard to hate. Call it charisma, individuality or just plain talent, JJ is an expert in bringing out the best qualities in whomever he is associated with. Unmistakenly, Dillon's Horsemen are the hottest attraction in the entire sport.

One way or another JJ has proven to be a master in getting what he wants. The white stretch limousines, private jet flights from the various arenas and first class hotel accommodations are the norm for Dillon and his crew. He is also widely regarded as a tough man to deal with when it comes time to negotiate contracts for his men with promoters. 'To get the best, you have to offer the best. That's one of the ideals JJ has installed as a motto among The Horsemen. All of us owe him a lot. I always felt I was a decent competitor but when I hooked up with him in 1983, JJ took me right to the NWA Television Title. Ever since then my career has been climbing to greater rewards', Tully Blanchard said in no uncertain terms.

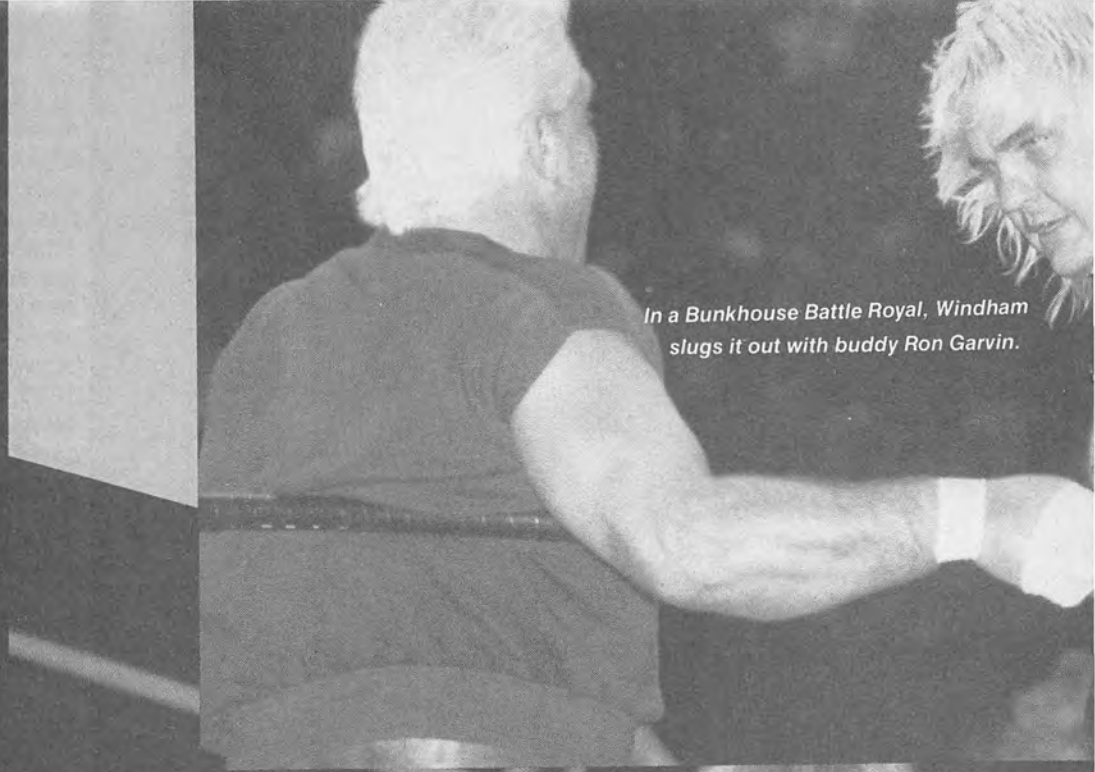
Always thinking, trying to be a step ahead of his competitors, JJ proved this past summer that he is indeed an intelligent manager. When the NWA was in the midst of its annual "Great American Bash" Tour held each summer, JJ donned the trunks and boots once again and teamed up with his then Four Horsemen of Flair, Blanchard, Anderson and Luger. When those five squared off against Dusty Rhodes, Nikita Koloff, The Road Warriors and Paul Ellering in a ten man elimination match known as "War Games" in two adjoining rings with a huge cage around them, Dillon thought before the brutal matchup took place, that one of his men could be injured. JJ secured the services of a "taxi squad" wrestler, one standing by for duty if needed to be called upon. It's a good thing for JJ that he envisioned the painful, possible probability.

Sure enough, the "ace" up his sleeve was needed. It was Dillon himself that was injured, dislocating his left shoulder, after being double teamed by the Roadies. With several more "War Game" appearances coming up, along with handsome guarantees from promoters of large football stadiums, Dillon wasn't about to forfeit all that he and his Horsemen worked hard for. The "War Games" went on and so did the Horsemen's winning streak, with a big thanks to the thinking of JJ Dillon.

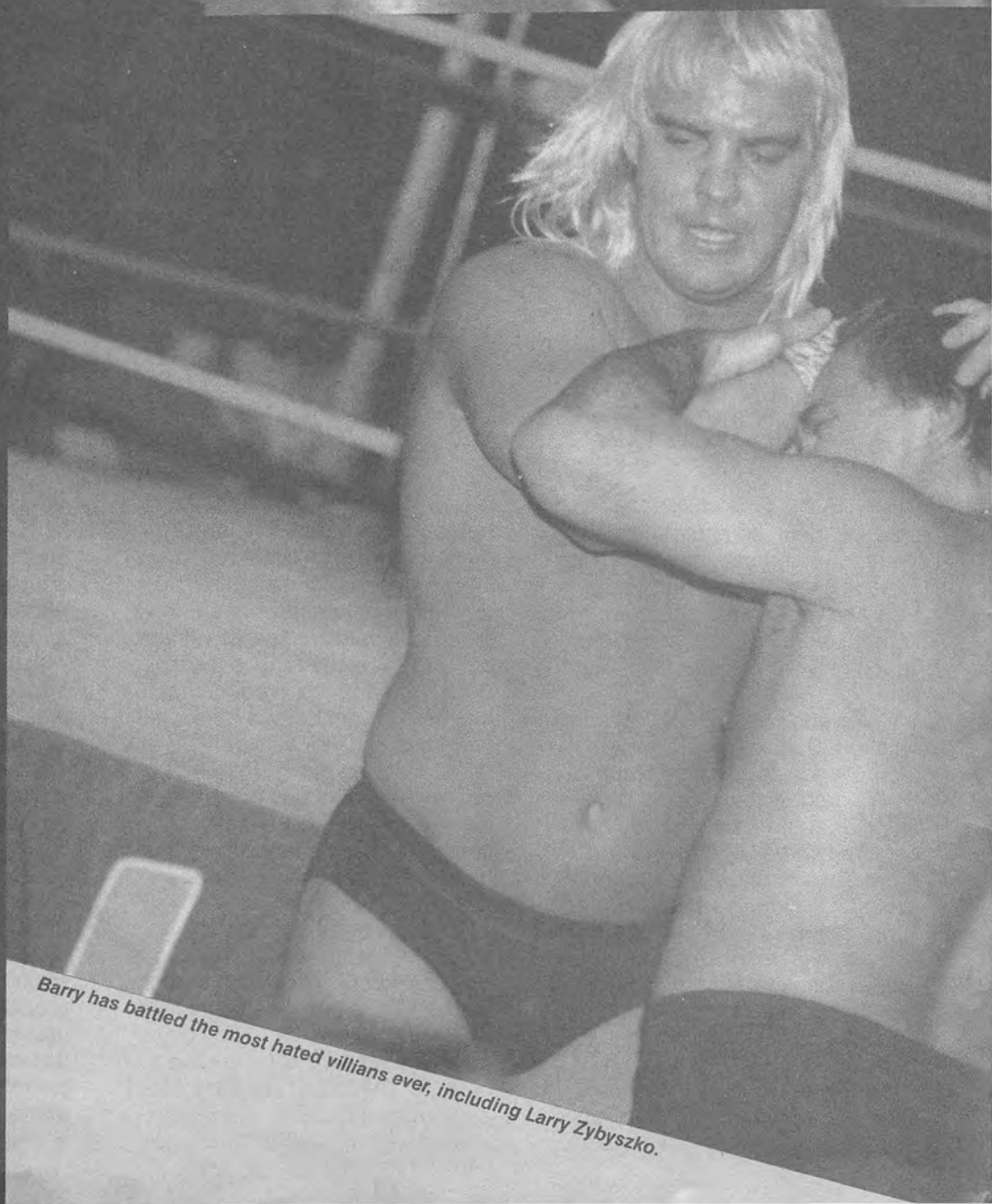
There have been scores more physically tougher than JJ Dillon but no one has come close to his strength when it comes to approaching a match from a thinking man's perspective. JJ Dillon, wrestler, manager, trainer and negotiator without a doubt truly is the one and only "brain" of professional wrestling.

FROM GOOD TO BAD

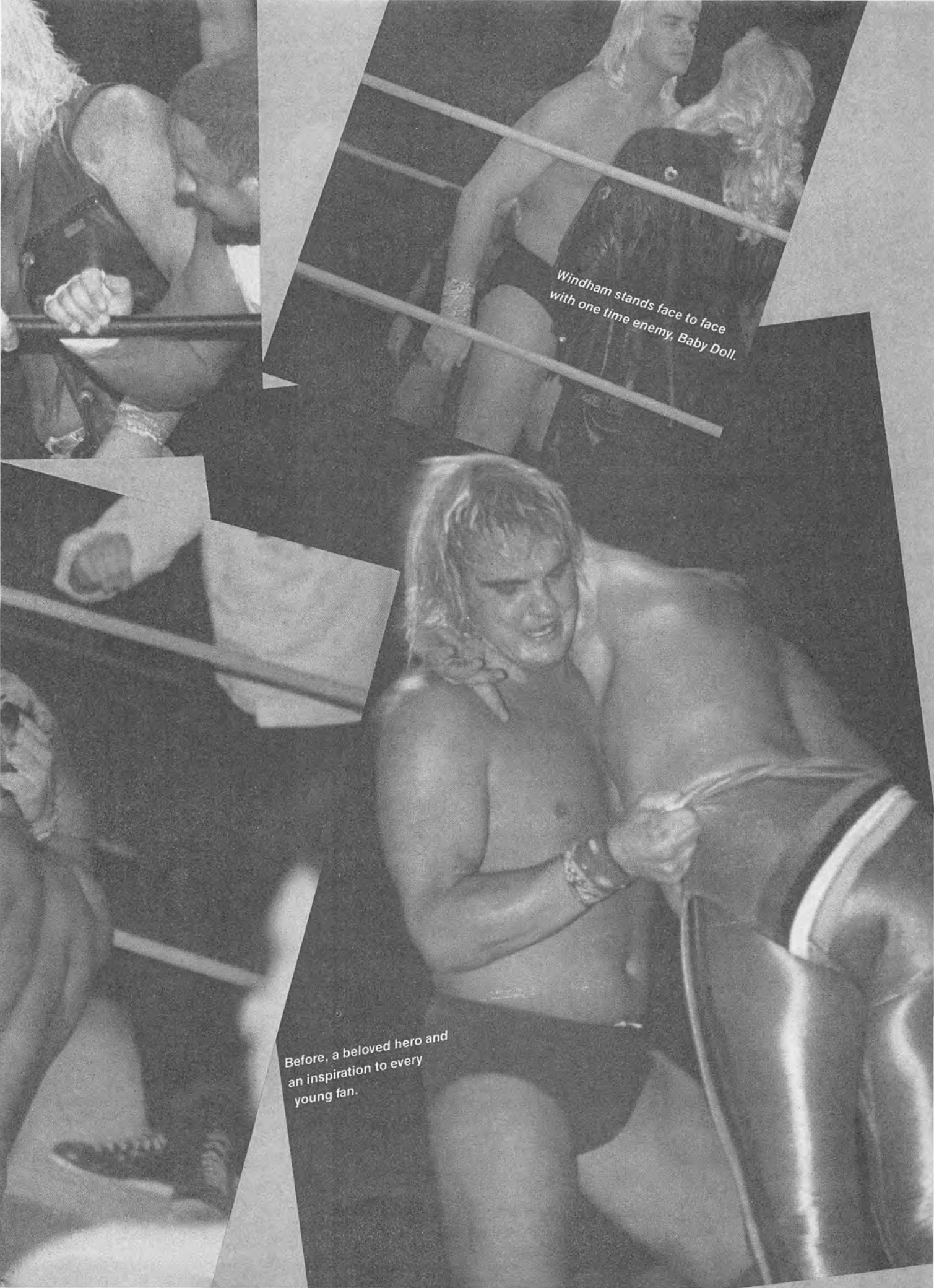
THE METAMORPHOSIS OF BARRY WINDHAM



In a Bunkhouse Battle Royal, Windham slugs it out with buddy Ron Garvin.

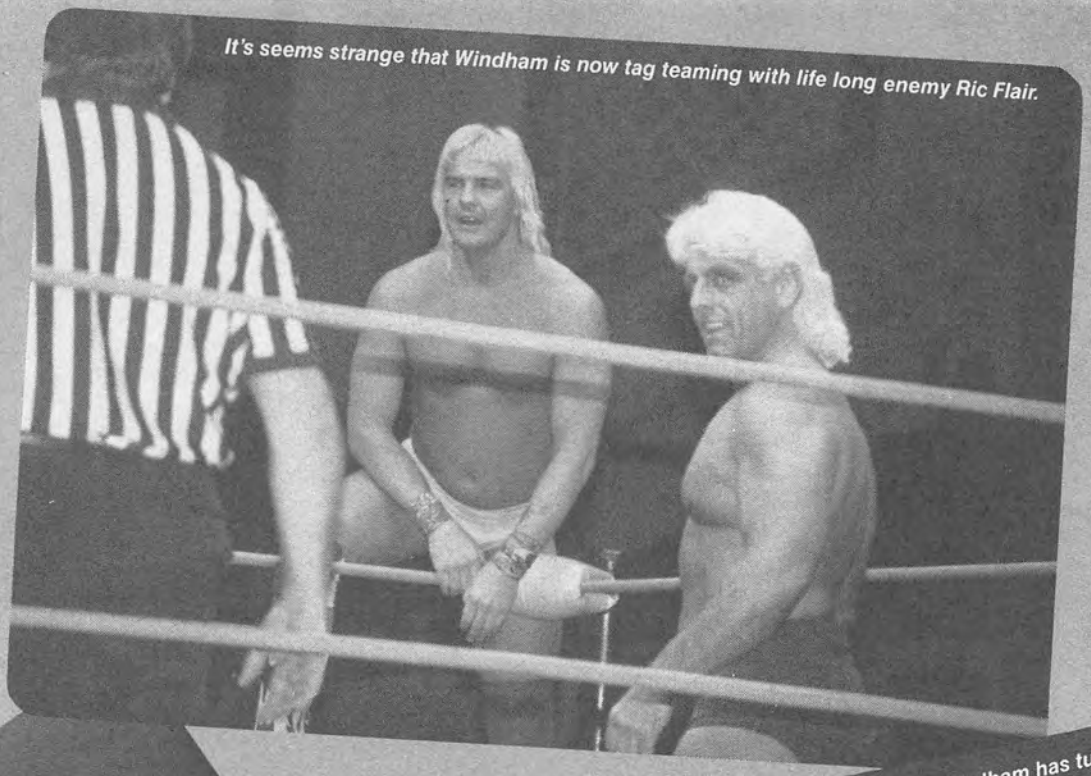


Barry has battled the most hated villians ever, including Larry Zybyszko.

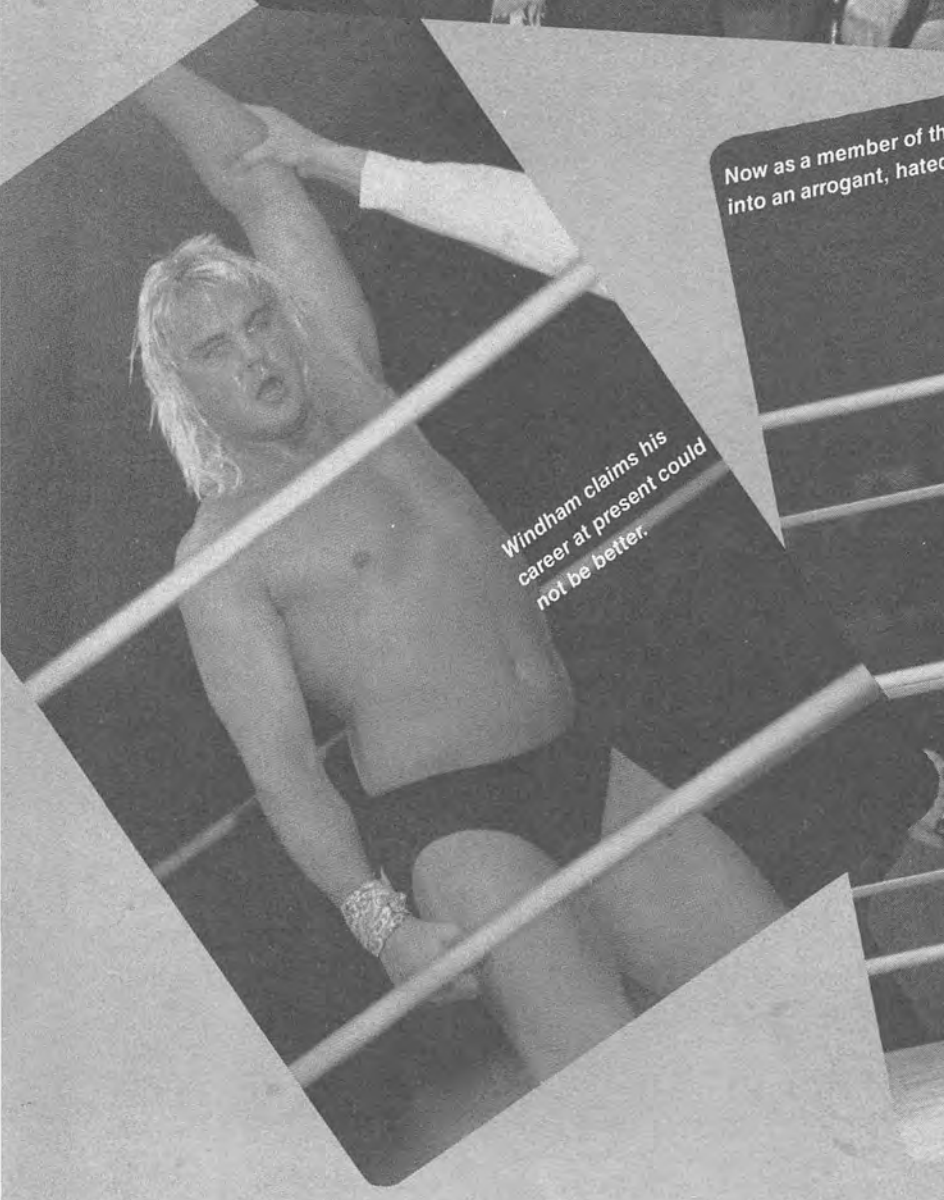


Windham stands face to face with one time enemy, Baby Doll.

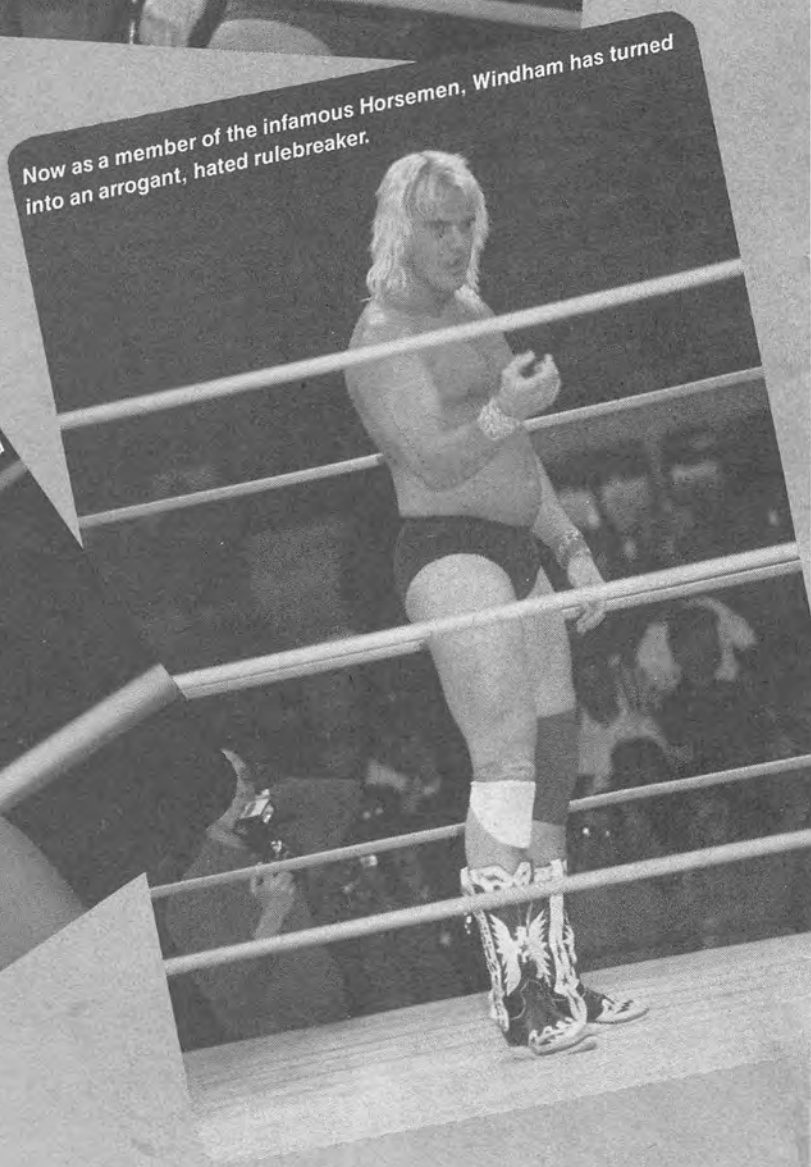
Before, a beloved hero and an inspiration to every young fan.



It's seems strange that Windham is now tag teaming with life long enemy Ric Flair.

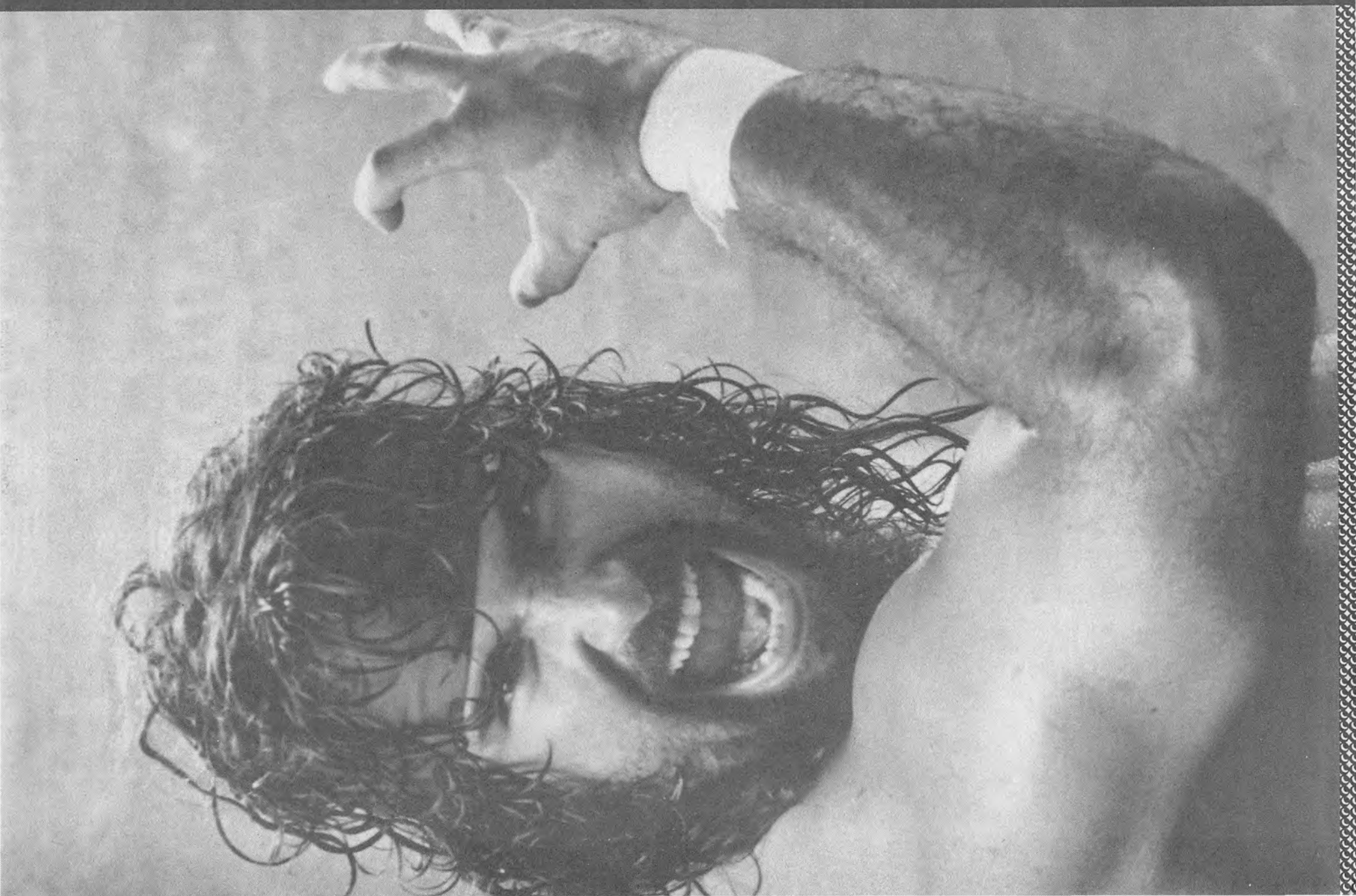


Windham claims his career at present could not be better.

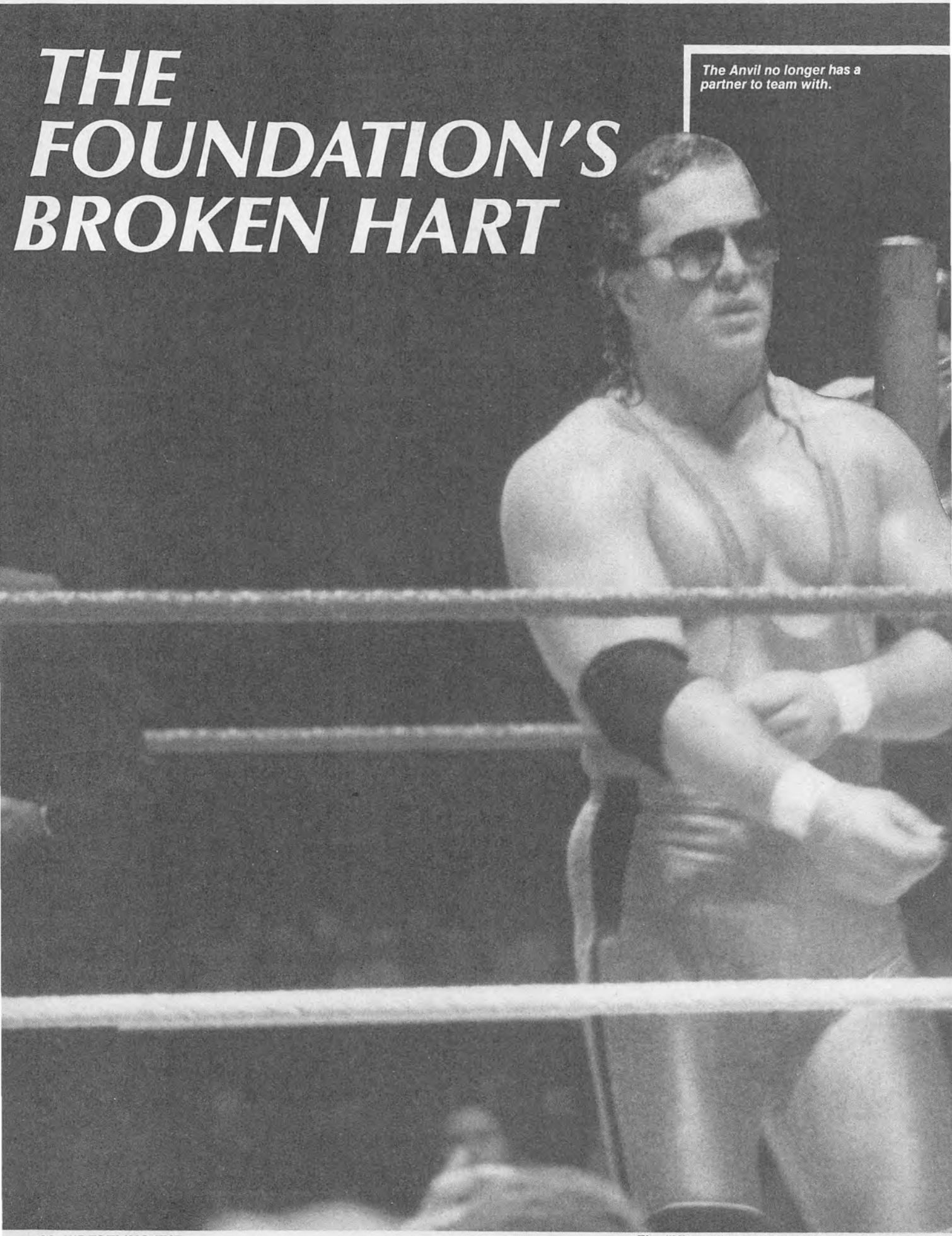


Now as a member of the infamous Horsemen, Windham has turned into an arrogant, hated rulebreaker.

CACTUS JACK FOLEY

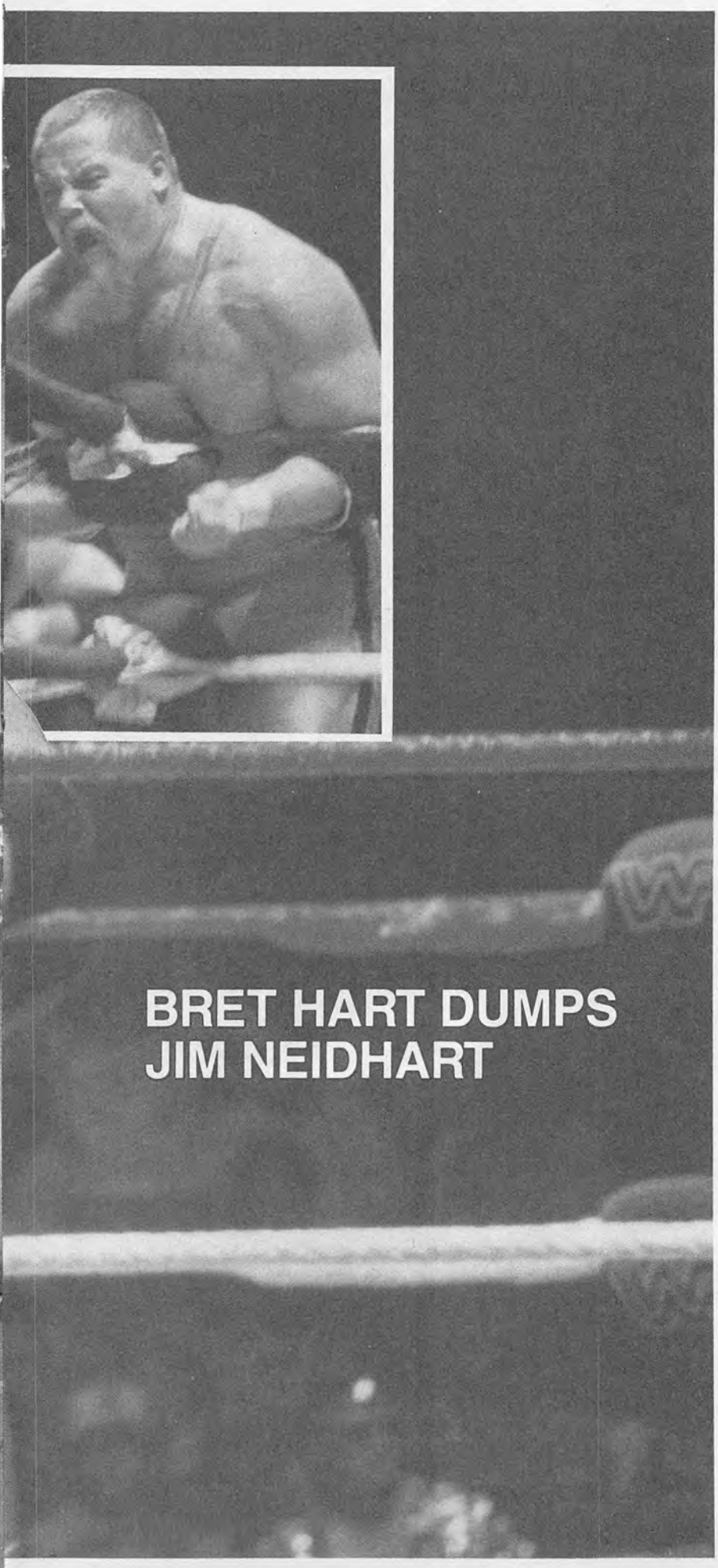


THE FOUNDATION'S BROKEN HART



The Anvil no longer has a partner to team with.

The "Hitman" is now loved by many fans.



BRET HART DUMPS JIM NEIDHART

By Don Laible

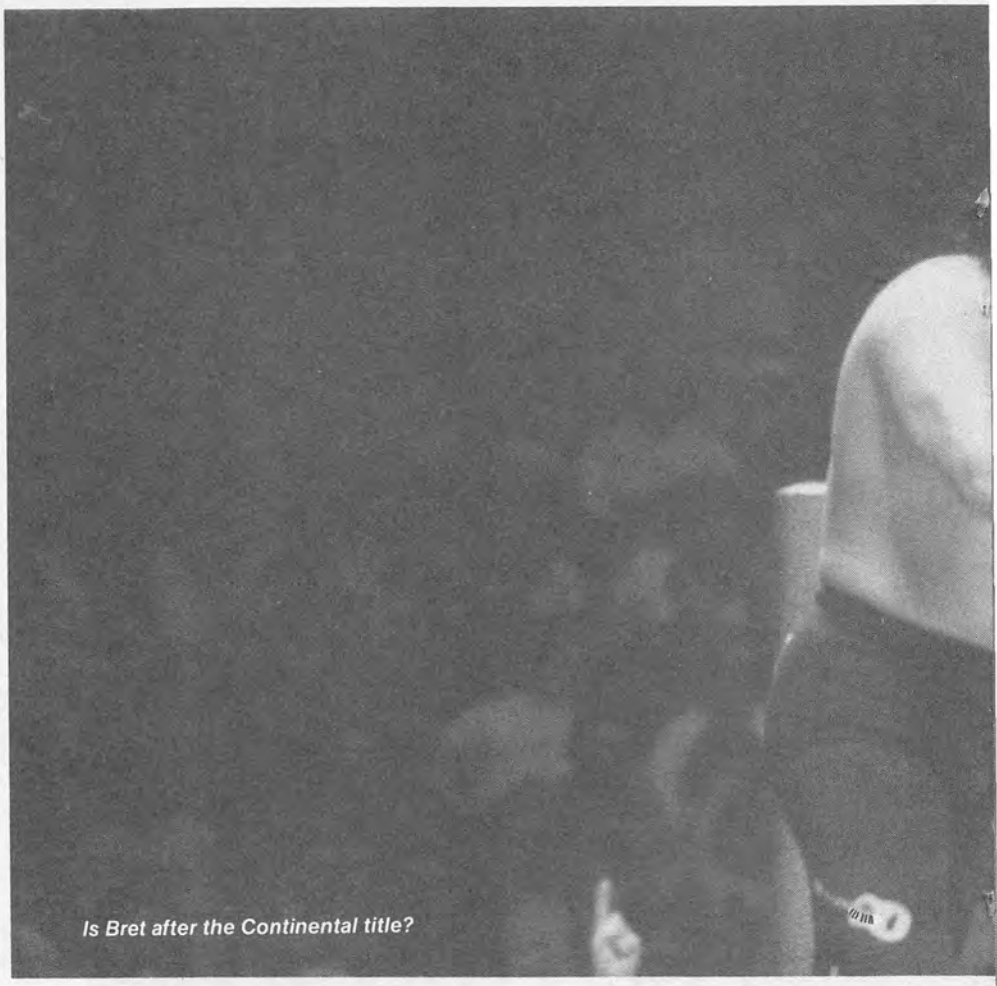
A partnership no more. That about sums up Bret "Hitman" Hart's feelings towards his now ex-manager Jimmy Hart (no relation) and former tag team partner Jim Neidhart. The breaking up of the trio is one that has sent shock waves throughout the wrestling world. Bret and Neidhart have been together for many years in the ring. It was that binding camaraderie, that closeness, which ultimately lead them to the World Wrestling Federation Tag Team Championship. Through tough battles in the ring as a unit and long car rides from small towns to big cities, Bret and Jim were always looking out for one another's best interest. As for "The Mouth of the South" Jimmy Hart, he was the glue that kept the duo rolling on with as few distractions as possible. With all aspects of their career riding high in their favor, why would "The Hitman" turn his back on what has been his closest allies for several years?

When reflecting back on Bret Hart and Jim Neidhart's professional partnership, it's a wonder the duo ever lasted as a unit for so many years. Their backgrounds are total opposites. Bret comes from a wrestling family based in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Four of his eight brothers also wrestle. The youngest, Owen, could very well be the reason as to why the Hart Foundation is no more. Neidhart, on the other side of the coin, is a native of Reno, Nevada and played professional football with the Oakland Raiders. When comparing their ring styles, again, there isn't too many similarities. Bret baffles his opponents with speed, agility and a vast array of holds. He very often confuses his challengers with flying body presses, snap suplexes and standing chin-high dropkicks. Hart's ring arsenal is versatile and impressive to say the least. When discussing Neidhart's ring combat approach, straight on says it all. Brute strength is his forte. Nothing fancy or surprising. Neidhart, nicknamed "The Anvil", weakens his foes with smashing forearm blows and powerful body slams.

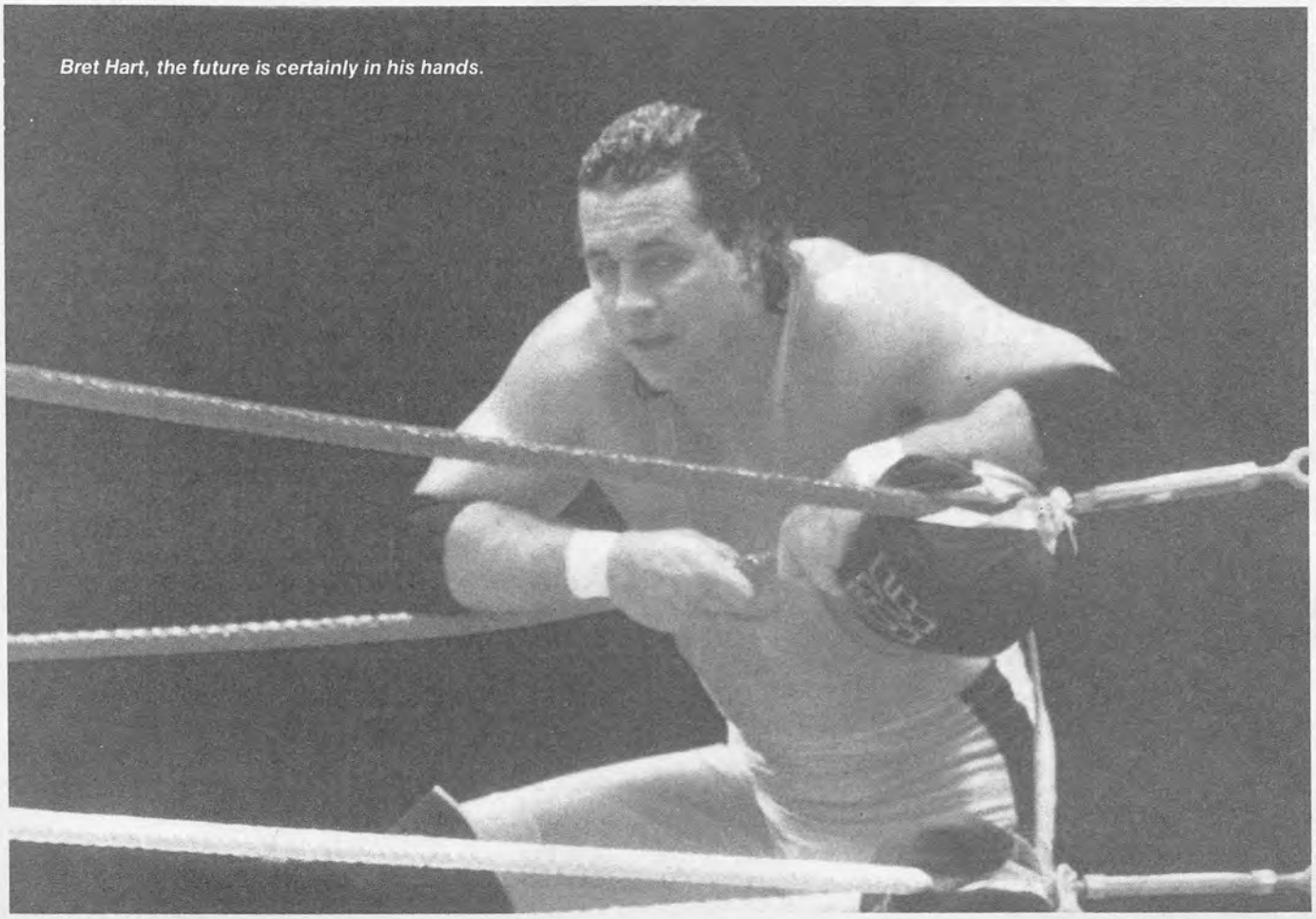
The let-down of being defeated for their belts by then soon-to-be WWF tag champs, Tito Santana

and Rick Martel, could have been the spark to start the fire burning between Bret and Neidhart. It was "The Anvil" that submitted to a Boston Crab hold applied on him by Martel that cost the Foundation to lose their title. Another theory kicked around as to why Bret Hart decided to go solo was the emergence of his younger brother Owen's career. Although only wrestling professionally for a year and a half now, Owen has shown all indications through his ring work to be one of the most gifted and successful athletes to step into the "squared circle" during the past decade. From all accounts circulating, the arrival of Owen in the pro ranks holds the most credence for "The Hitman" to leave Jimmy Hart's stable.

'In the ring, without any doubt in my mind, there isn't a better ring technician than Bret. Every move he executes is done with more pride, and so precisely, than any wrestler I've seen since Lou Thesz. I think Bret grew tired of being booed and disliked by the majority of fans. Following Jimmy Hart's orders is what made him so unpopular. Bret has devoted his



Is Bret after the Continental title?



Bret Hart, the future is certainly in his hands.

entire life to wrestling and deserves a lot more credit than he's been receiving since he landed in the WWF. I know it wasn't an easy decision for him to make in leaving "The Anvil" but in the long run, you watch, he will benefit from it,' said a former wrestler now talent agent for the WWF, who will remain anonymous.

During the invitational battle royal on the WrestleMania IV program, it was Bret who faired quite well for himself during the wild free-for-all. Although "Bad News" Brown won the event, it was "The Hitman" that was the second to the last man left in the ring. Endurance, stamina, natural ability, all have played an important role in allowing Bret to wear down opponents for thirty to sixty minutes at a time, for however long it takes to defeat them. In the case of the battle royal, Bret eluded over eighteen other top athletes to be one of the finalists. If not for the unexpected actions brought upon him by "The Anvil" when in the Royal, Bret just may have pulled off the big win.

'I'm not all that proud of what I've done in the ring since I signed with Jimmy Hart. Sure, the rewards were tremendous but the attitude he wanted me to display just wasn't me, I wasn't comfortable with myself. I felt I was doing an injustice to my family and the respect that they have earned over the years. Owen is already a superstar but he's young and inexperienced to many aspects of this sport. I want to be with him during this important period in his career. With what I've learned in mixing it up with guys like Roddy Piper, Randy Savage and Ricky Steamboat, along with his natural talents, my brother shows all the signs of being the world champ one day. Who needs the jealousy and pettiness of a Jimmy Hart or "Anvil" Neidhart, who I thought was my closest friend,' stated Bret Hart in Oneonta.

"The Anvil" has closed ranks with Jimmy Hart and his men and feels the public humiliation, not to mention the financial losses occurred due to the team's split, is an issue of many that he just can't let slide by. 'I made the mistake into believing that glory-hound Bret was my best buddy, what a snow job that turned out to be. Let him be a fan favorite and parade his snot-nosed kid brother around the world, I'll slap them both silly. For a long time I sat back and ignored Bret's whining and complaining about our manager being a hinderence instead of a positive influence on our career. Now, my top priority is to get Bret to sign as many contracts for matches with me, I'll teach him a couple of lessons he can pass to Owen,' Neidhart confidently said.

Obviously, from hearing both Bret and Jim's account on their disbanding as a team, it's safe to say a reunion isn't in the picture. Bret has fared quite well since seeing action in predominately single's competition. Bad News Brown is just one talented mat man that has fallen in defeat to Bret Hart. After doing away with Brown in less than ten minutes in New York's Madison Square Garden, Bret was awarded something other than a victory, after he was declared the contest's winner. A standing ovation was bestowed upon him by the appreciative crowd. Perhaps, it was the fans way of telling "The Hitman", we like you, we support you, we're glad to have you on our side. Regardless of the meaning behind the ovation, it was an emotional moment that those in attendance and Hart himself won't soon forget.

Bret Hart is a survivor. Emotionally the break up with Neidhart will take some time to heal. You can't spend so much time with one person and become attached. However, the future is bright and promising for "The Hitman". He's been wrestling professionally for ten years and, while still awaiting his thirtieth birthday, Bret shows no signs of slowing down. With so much to shoot for, junior heavyweight and tag titles with brother Owen, Bret displays all the enthusiasm to be around wrestling all the big names for another decade.

Davy Boy Smith, one half of The British Bulldogs, another top notch wrestling duo in the WWF, perhaps best sums up Bret Hart's recent change in attitude. "The Hitman has grown up. He's matured into a role model that not only the fans look up to but that he's proud of as well. With Bret's personal and professional goals now in proper perspective, there's no telling how far he'll go. Bret has finally seen the light."

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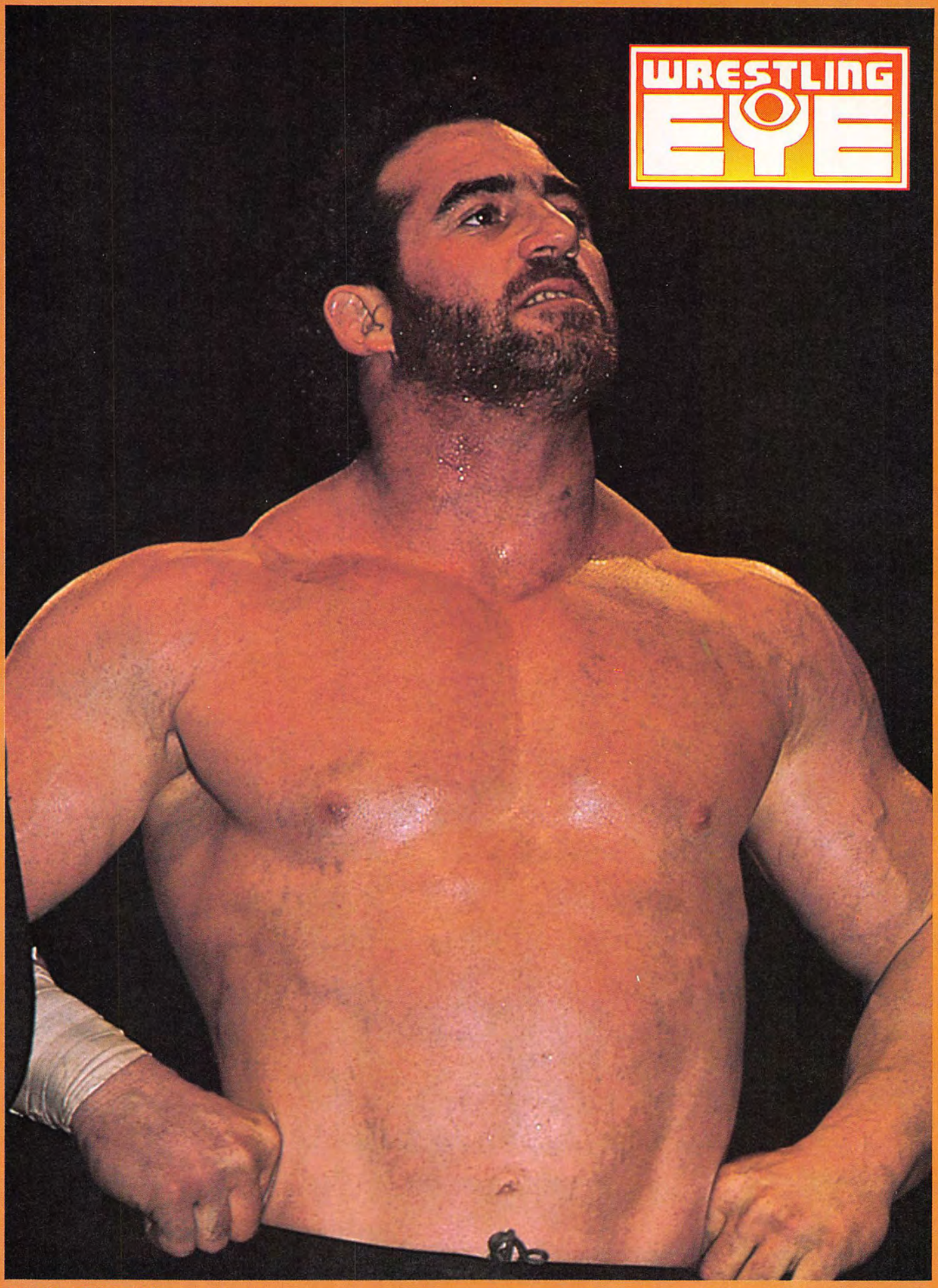
BRUTUS BEEFCAKE

Photo By Linda Moore

HERCULES



BRUISER BRODY VS

ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER

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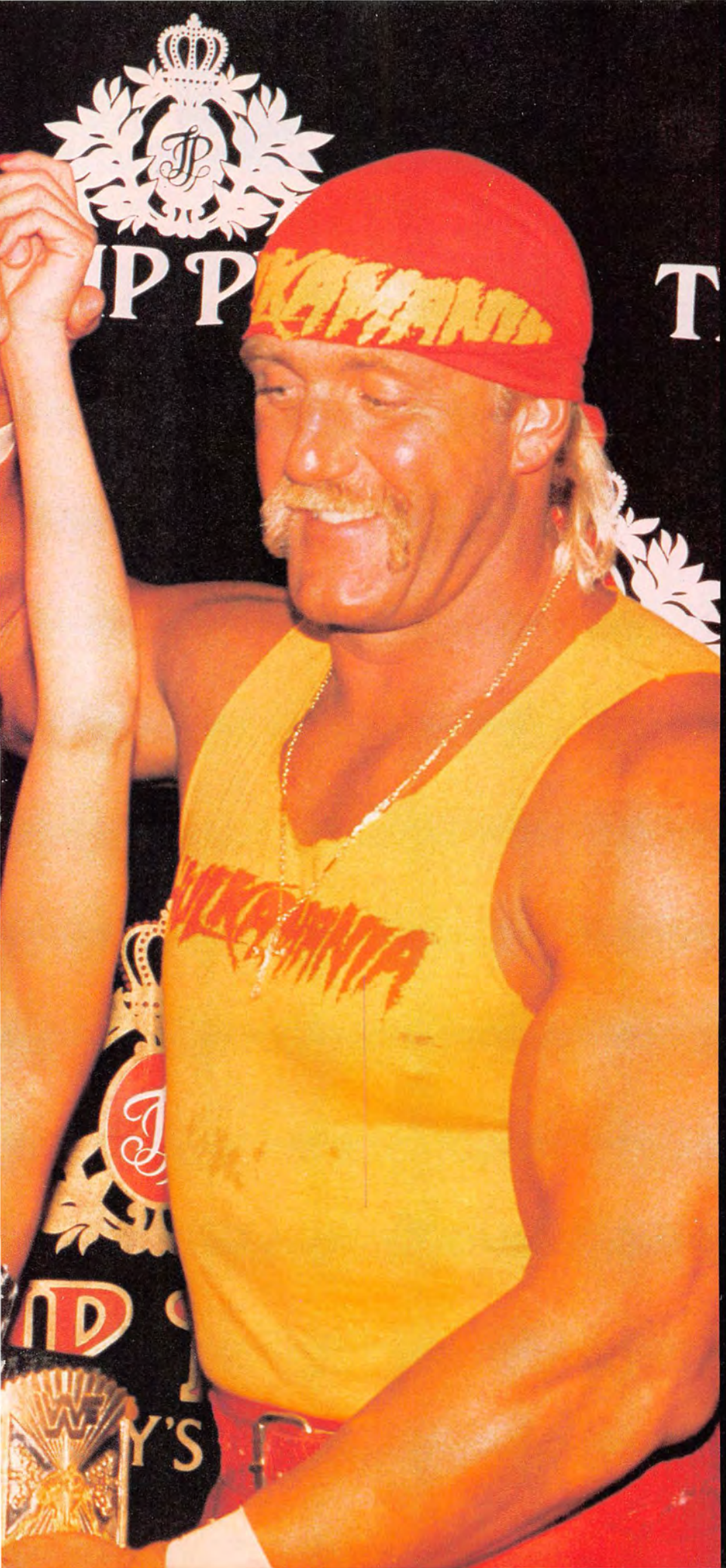
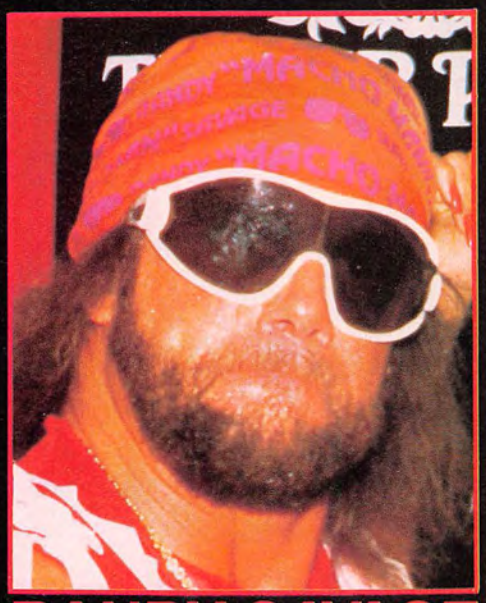
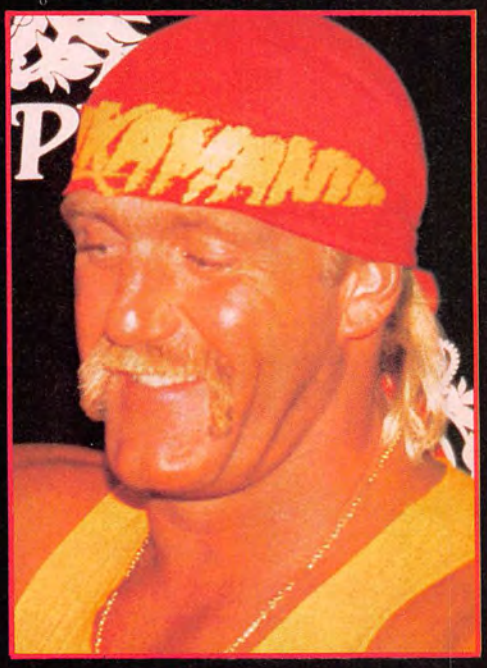




RANDY SAVAGE

ELIZABETH



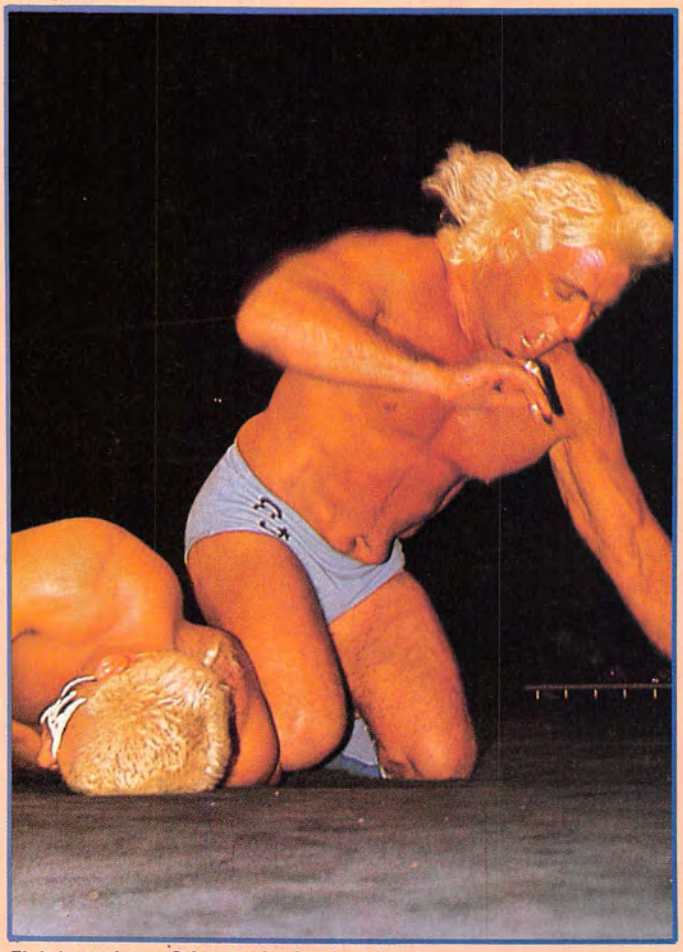
HULK HOGAN

MATCH OF

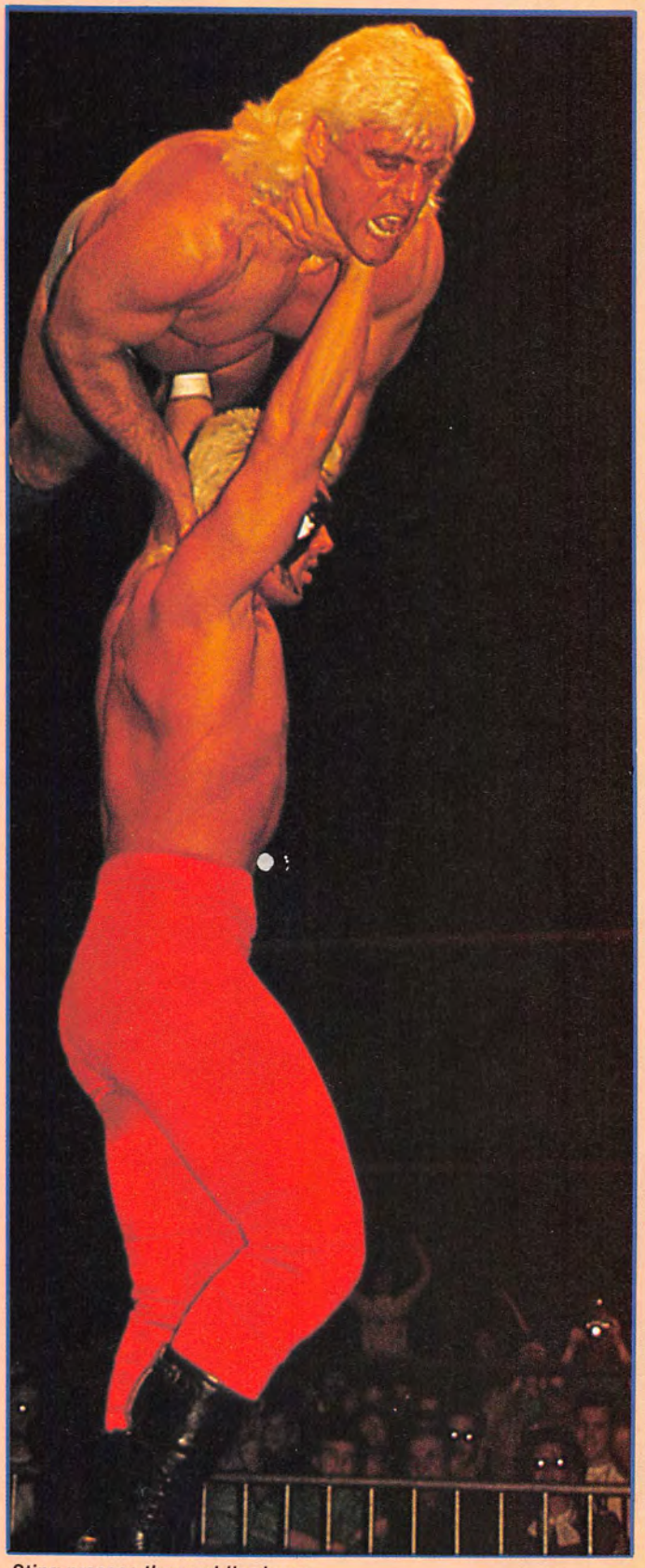
RIC FLAIR VS STING

By Keith Wilkinson

Sting and Flair, head to head.

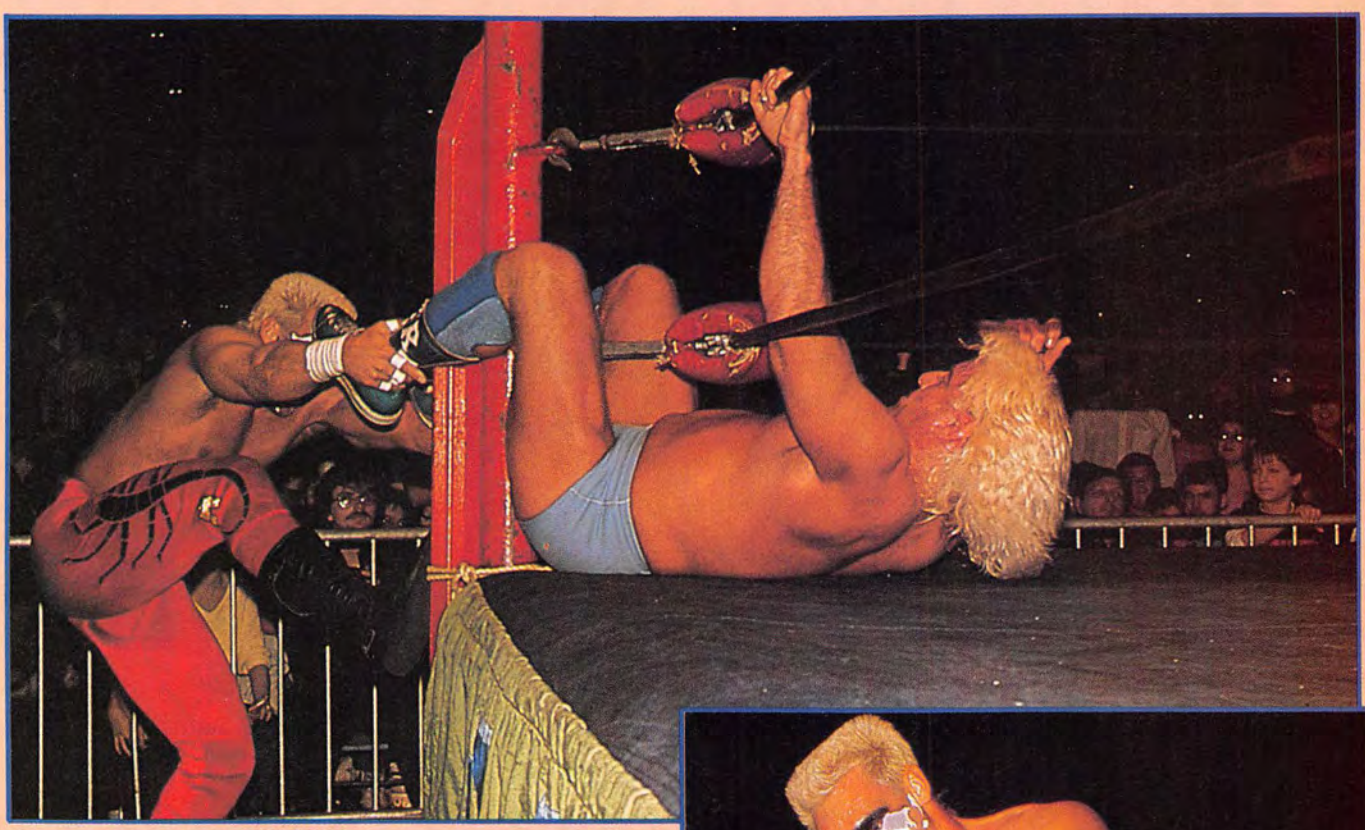


Flair kneedrops Sting to the forehead.

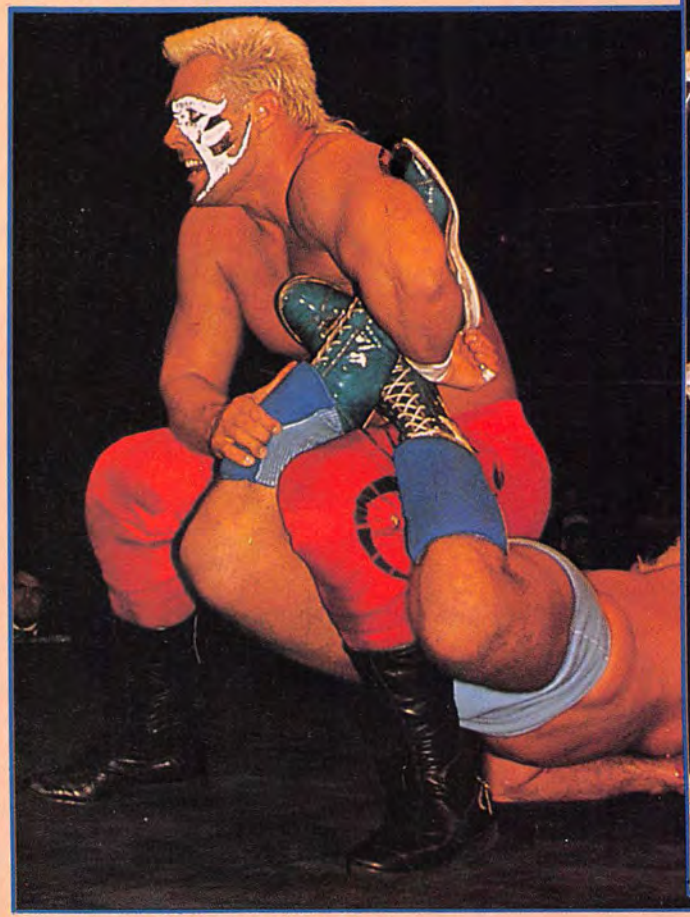


Sting presses the world's champ.

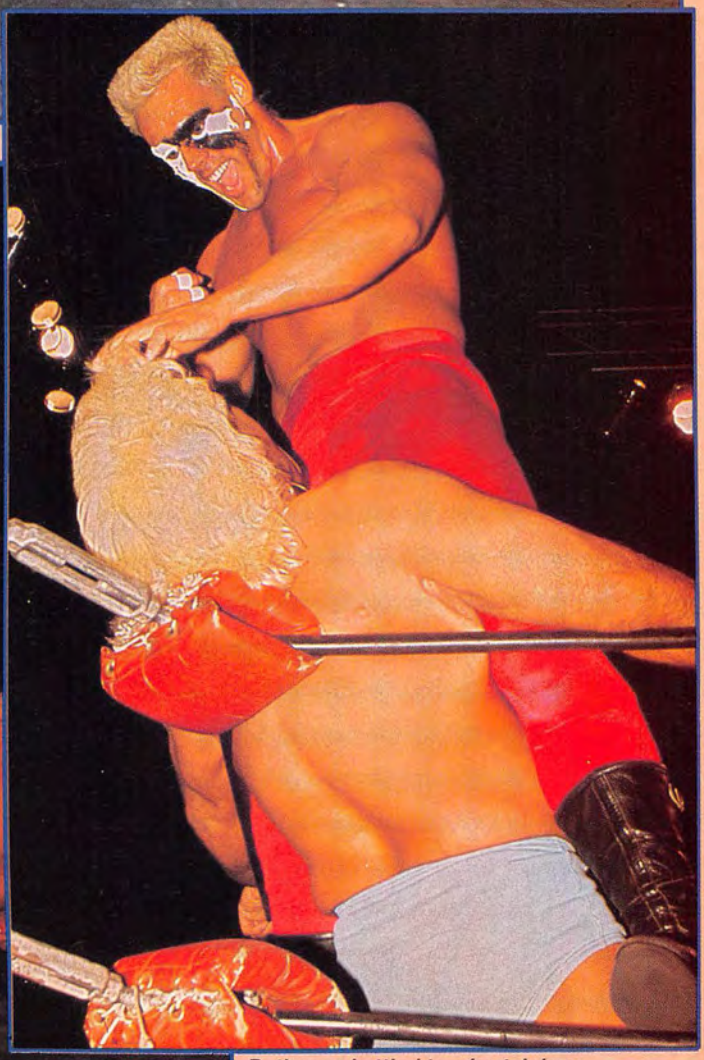
THE MONTH



Between the posts goes Slick Ric.



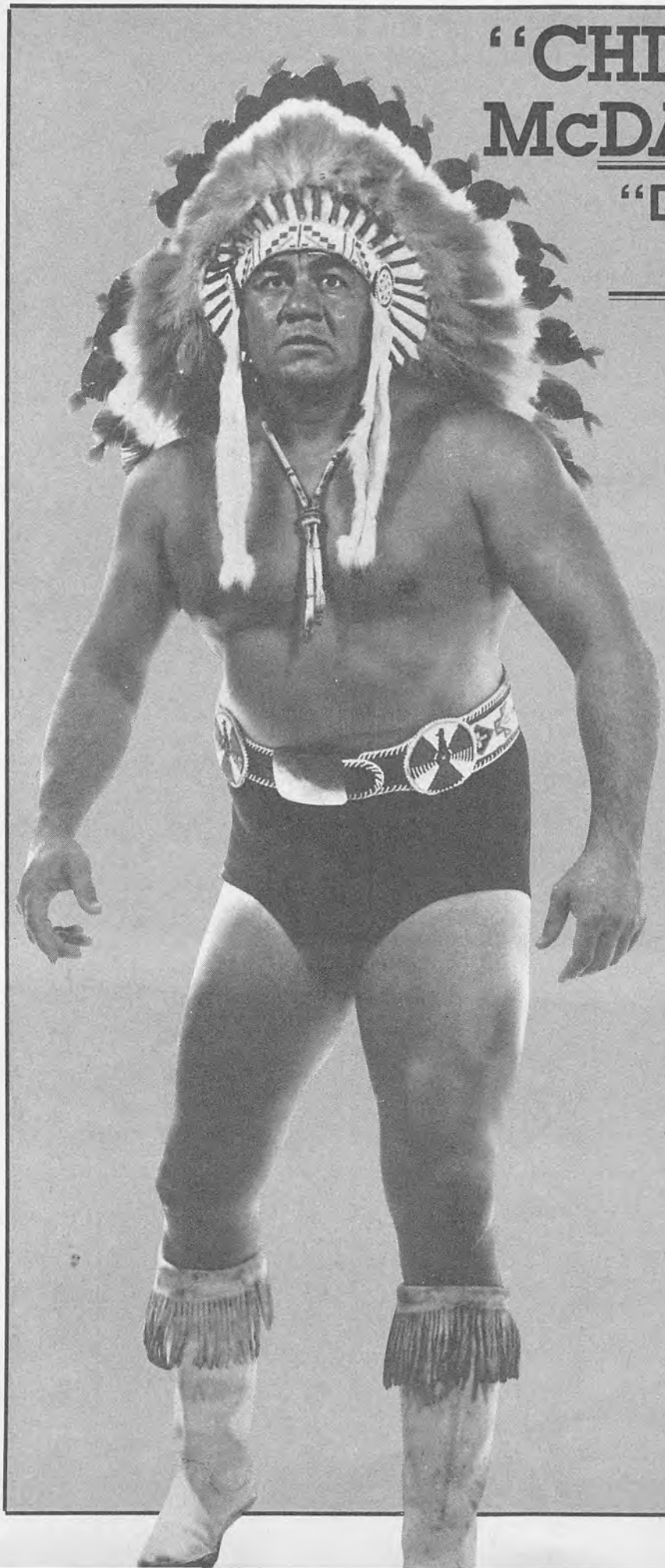
Sting clamps on his Scorpion Leglock.



Both men battled to a brutal draw.

TED DIBIASE

Photo By Jack Russell



"CHIEF WAHOO McDANIEL"

"DETERMINATION PERSONIFIED"

Wahoo McDaniel truly is a living legend in the wrestling world, but long before Wahoo was known to wrestling fans, his name was a household word to millions of football fans.

Wahoo's athletic credentials are impressive. A native of Oklahoma, he grew up in Midland, Texas where he twice was an All-State fullback. He went on to play with the Oklahoma Sooners, at the University of Oklahoma, under the guidance of the great Bud Wilkinson. There, he played defensive halfback, offensive end and punter. His record-breaking achievements include a punt of 91 yards (which still stands in the record book as the longest) and an incredible catch of 86 yards (which stands as the third longest catch in the history of the University of Oklahoma). He continued on to gain All-American honors as a senior, and was a member of two Orange Bowl Teams.

Turning pro, Wahoo joined the Houston Oilers and started the final 10 games of the season as they went on to capture Houston's first and only American Football League Championship.

It was during the off season that Wahoo began his wrestling career in Indianapolis, and for the next nine years he combined the two sports. Playing the position of linebacker, he played with such outstanding teams as: the Denver Broncos, the New York Jets and the Miami Dolphins, where during that time he was named All-Pro twice.

Although the combination of the two sports drew tremendous notoriety in both professional circles, Wahoo eventually hung-up his shoulder pads and concentrated totally on his wrestling career. His popularity continued to grow as he

Wahoo McDaniel, a wrestling name that will never be forgotten.

McDaniel can give any competitor a rough time.

captured Championship belts wherever he appeared. He was crowned the Florida Heavyweight Champion, and won the Texas State Championship. Other titles included the Texas Tag Team Title, the Mid-Atlantic Championship and the Southwest Championship to name a few.

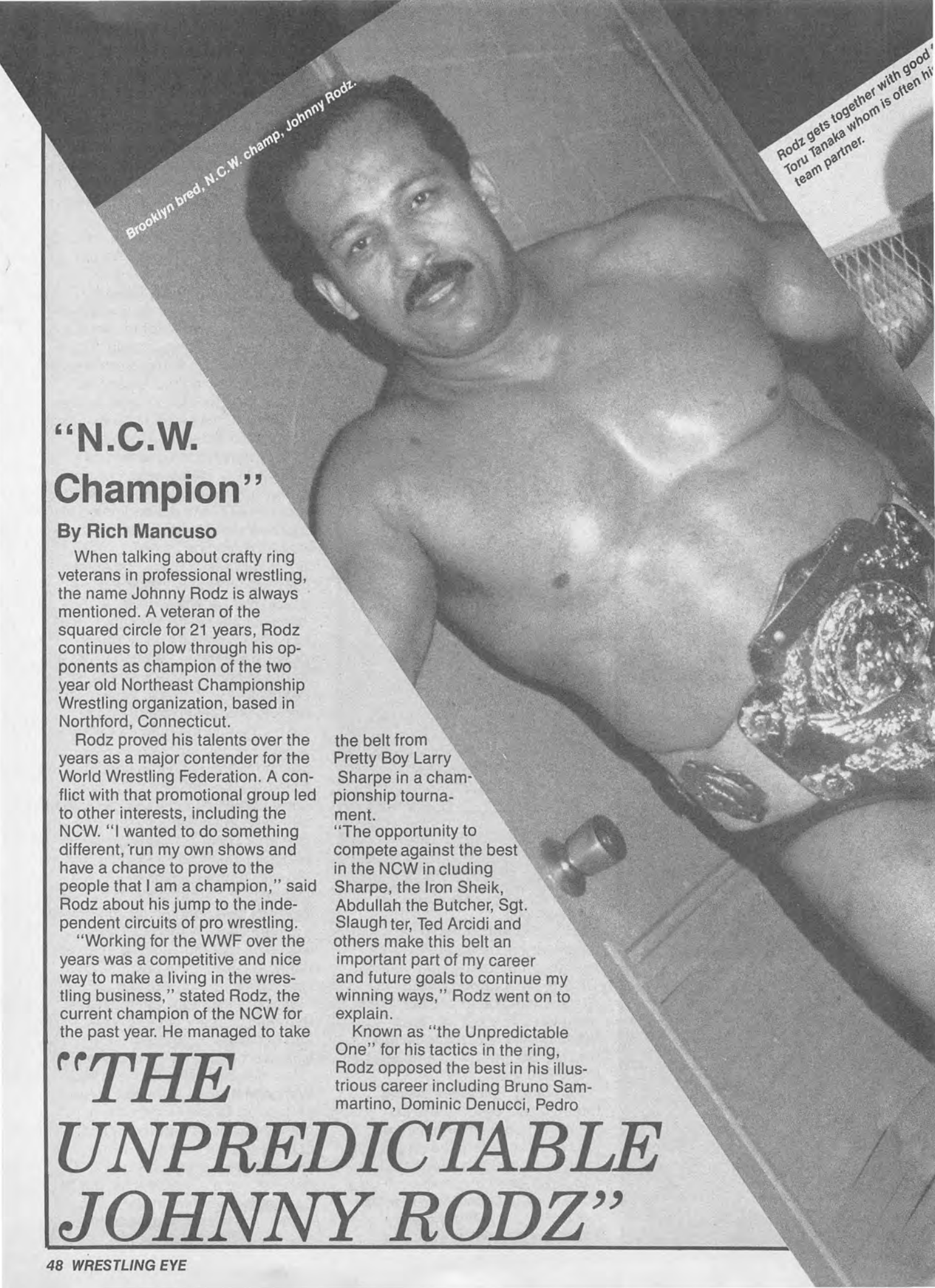
Participating in main events throughout the world, Wahoo stands proud of his Indian heritage, and he enters the ring in full headdress and tribal regalia. There has never been and never will be a dull moment when Wahoo McDaniel enters a wrestling arena. There isn't a style of match he hasn't been involved in, including pole matches, chain matches, cage matches and street fight events. And of course, there is the type of match Wahoo specializes in, the Indian Death Strap Match (which originated from early types of Indian hand-to-hand combat). In this type of match he remains undefeated.

With almost two decades of wrestling under his belt, Wahoo McDaniel is still a man with a dream. Wahoo, undeniably the greatest American Indian wrestler ever, has forever sought a world's heavyweight championship. From the National Wrestling Alliance to his current home the American Wrestling Association, Wahoo continues to strive for that title that has eluded him for such a long time.

Currently his top enemy has been A.W.A. Heavyweight Champion, Curt Hennig. Throughout the end of 1987, and the beginning of 1988, Wahoo's attempt at the curly haired champion's title has not been successful to say the least. "Wahoo McDaniel is nothing but an old washed up wrestler, who does not belong on the same 'marquis' as I," stated A.W.A. champion Curt Hennig. "Wahoo is not a threat to my title whatsoever. Like I said before in the past, Wahoo, go back to your reservation. I don't have time enough to humor you!"

Curt Hennig currently has bypassed Wahoo and has concentrated his title defenses against Jerry Lawler, whom most feel is the man who will eventually take the belt from Hennig. "Sure Lawler is a tough challenge for Hennig, but the tussle between those two will just last for a short while. Whether Curt or Lawler end up as champion I'm sure Chief Wahoo McDaniel will be on that man's heels in an attempt to capture the belt," stated A.W.A. official Rob Russen. "Wahoo is definitely the most determined wrestler in the A.W.A. and hopefully for Wahoo in the very short future it will all pay off."

It is determination that has kept Wahoo McDaniel at the top of his profession for over a decade in both football and now in the sport of professional wrestling. Knowing success is what you make of it, he's not just a super athlete, but he has maintained his position with dignity, integrity and exceptional quality in all his endeavors.



Brooklyn bred, N.C.W. champ, Johnny Rodz.

Rodz gets together with good Toru Tanaka whom is often hi team partner.

"N.C.W. Champion"

By Rich Mancuso

When talking about crafty ring veterans in professional wrestling, the name Johnny Rodz is always mentioned. A veteran of the squared circle for 21 years, Rodz continues to plow through his opponents as champion of the two year old Northeast Championship Wrestling organization, based in Northford, Connecticut.

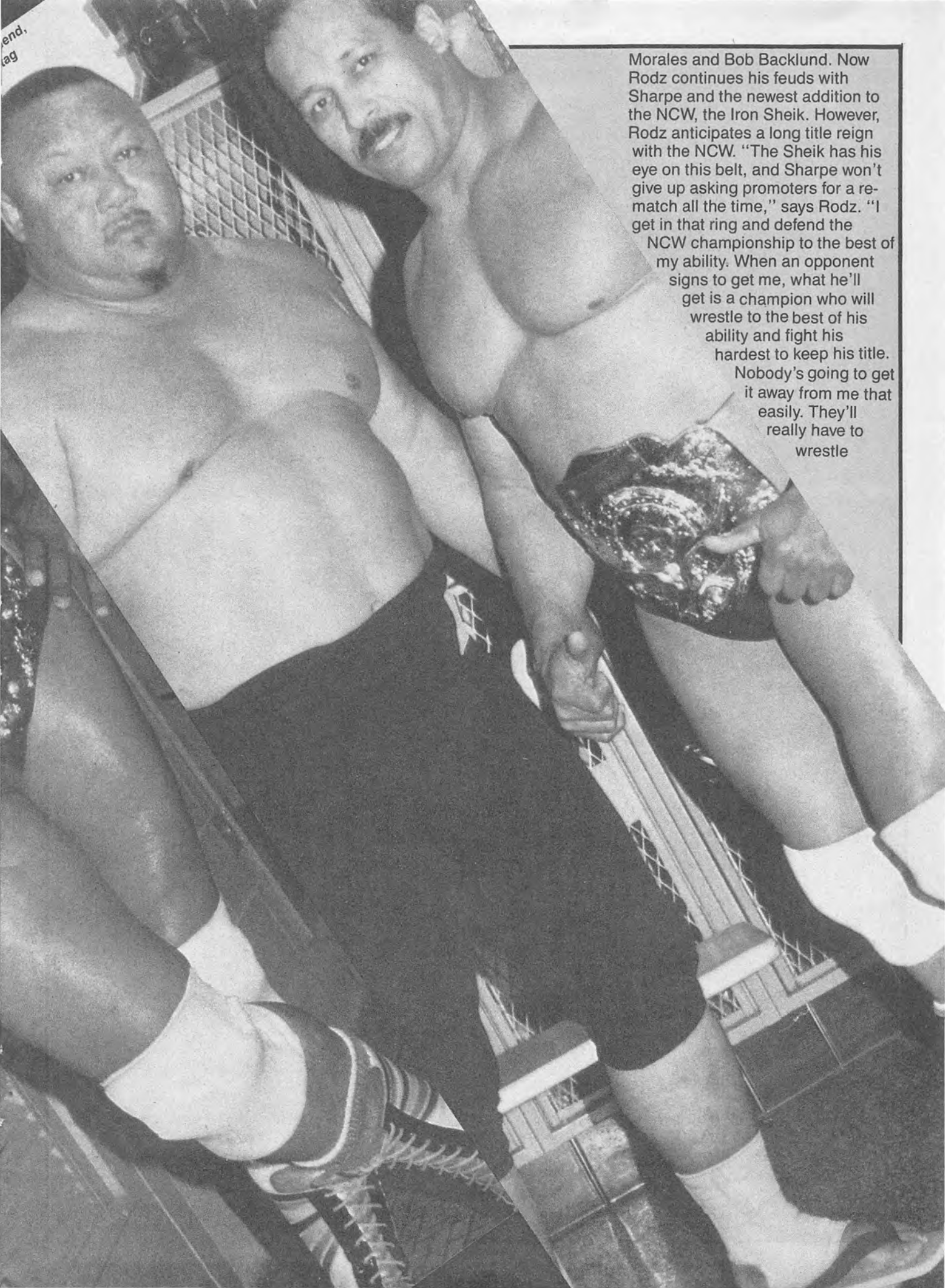
Rodz proved his talents over the years as a major contender for the World Wrestling Federation. A conflict with that promotional group led to other interests, including the NCW. "I wanted to do something different, run my own shows and have a chance to prove to the people that I am a champion," said Rodz about his jump to the independent circuits of pro wrestling.

"Working for the WWF over the years was a competitive and nice way to make a living in the wrestling business," stated Rodz, the current champion of the NCW for the past year. He managed to take the belt from Pretty Boy Larry Sharpe in a championship tournament.

"The opportunity to compete against the best in the NCW in cluding Sharpe, the Iron Sheik, Abdullah the Butcher, Sgt. Slaughter, Ted Arcidi and others make this belt an important part of my career and future goals to continue my winning ways," Rodz went on to explain.

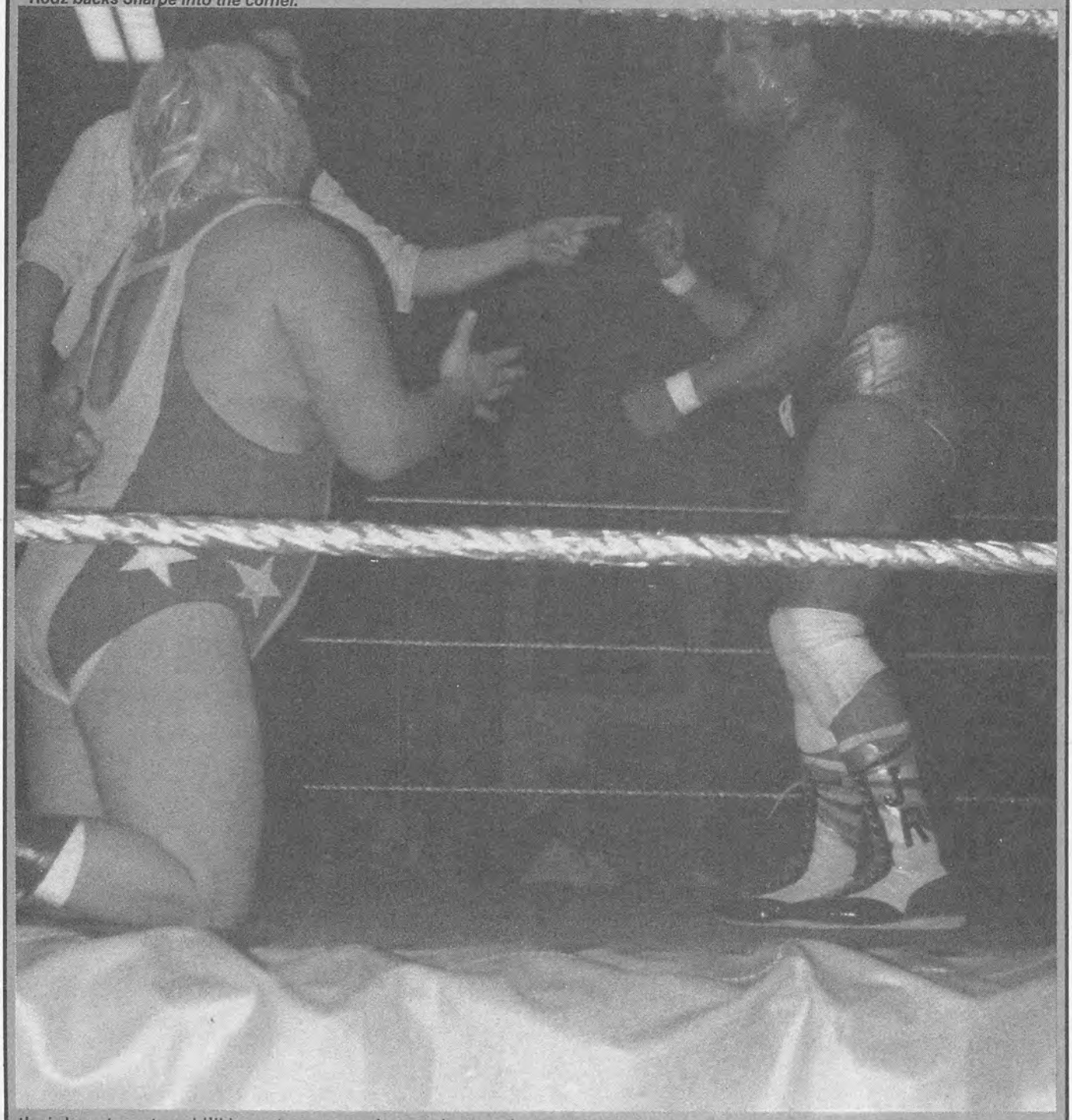
Known as "the Unpredictable One" for his tactics in the ring, Rodz opposed the best in his illustrious career including Bruno Sammartino, Dominic Denucci, Pedro

"THE UNPREDICTABLE JOHNNY RODZ"



Morales and Bob Backlund. Now Rodz continues his feuds with Sharpe and the newest addition to the NCW, the Iron Sheik. However, Rodz anticipates a long title reign with the NCW. "The Sheik has his eye on this belt, and Sharpe won't give up asking promoters for a re-match all the time," says Rodz. "I get in that ring and defend the NCW championship to the best of my ability. When an opponent signs to get me, what he'll get is a champion who will wrestle to the best of his ability and fight his hardest to keep his title. Nobody's going to get it away from me that easily. They'll really have to wrestle

Rodz backs Sharpe into the corner.



their hearts out and I'll have to have a really off night, that's the only way one of my competitors will get to be the champion of the NCW," Rodz stated emphatically.

In the months ahead Rodz will be taking his NCW championship matches up and down the East coast. His patented off the rope body press has been the finishing maneuver he has successfully been using on all his opponents. Of course, lately his competitors have been trying to get Rodz outside the ring, where they feel they have a better chance of wearing down the champ and taking away his title. For example, Rodz has been seen battling Abdullah out of the ring, has literally carried Sharpe into the dressing room and went from Section A to Section D during a New Hampshire show with the Iron Sheik. Through it all however, Rodz has managed to remain undefeated.

Johnny Rodz has other interests outside the ring. He is currently running a wrestling school in New York and some of his graduates include The Twin Towers, Mondo Kleen, Heart Throb and Bialo the Giant. "They are working hard and will be stars one day. That's how you succeed in this business and in life, hard work and above all be tough," said Rodz.

When asked how much longer he intended to stay in the wrestling ring Rodz replied "I'm here to stay as long as my strength and stamina stay with me. The Unpredictable One has been and will always be a champion the people deserve."

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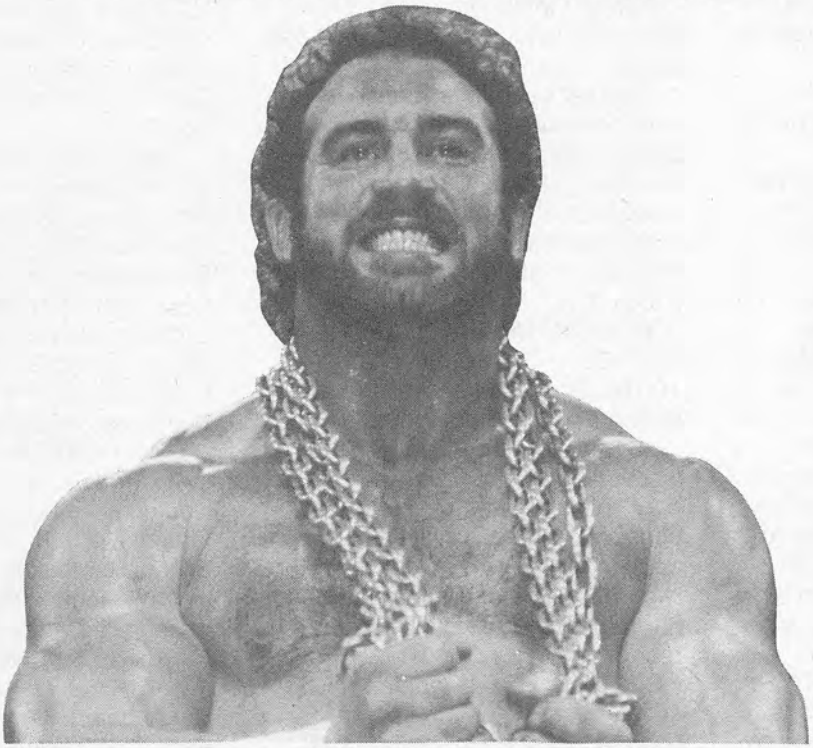

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Fan Club Column

REVIEWS

WRESTLING OBSERVER: Dave Meltzer, ED. P.O. Box 1228, Campbell, Ca 95009-1228. Published weekly. $5.00 for four issues up to $50.00 for 40 issues.

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PRO WRESTLING TORCH: WADE KELLER, ED. P.O. Box 201844, Minneapolis, Mn 55420. Published every other Thursday. $1.25 per issue.

The eight page format offers some good reading in the form of news and regular columns. As an added bonus, each subscriber receives a free, color photo each month. All in all, it's a neat package that's fun to read. Highly recommended.

PRO WRESTLING ENQUIRER: Harvey Cobb, ED. 2619 Ruffin Way, Norfolk, Va 23504. Published 7 times a year. $2.00 per issue. $14.00 Yearly.

The latest news, results, rumors and some insightful questions and answers are what you'll find each month. There certainly is a lot going on in the sport and you can stay right on top of everything with the PRO WRESTLING ENQUIRER.

RICHMOND WRESTLING REPORT: Al McIntire, ED. 9348 Telstar Rd., Richmond, Va 23237. Published monthly. .50¢ per issue.

The Richmond area is covered in this neatly packaged bulletin. There are features, puzzles and a fan's corner each month. Pencils, pens, bumper stickers and a pro wrestling game are also available. Write the editor for further details.

WRESTLING WATCH: Gary Thompson, ED. P.O. Box 515, Glenn Dale, Md 20769. Published monthly. $1.60 per issue.

Comprehensive coverage of all the major federations is supplied. The editor tries to keep you as up to date as possible and offers a clear and easy to read format. It's worth a look so get a copy today.

WILD WORLD OF WRESTLING: Shawn Tompkins, ED. R.R. 4 Aylmer Ontario Canada N5H 2R3. Published monthly. $2.00 per issue.

Another bulletin comes to us from Canada and the graphics and layouts are nicely done. There are features, a list of wrestlers birthdays for that month and some regular columns. The editor has put a lot of effort into the bulletin so take a look at it.

WRESTLING GAZETTE: Rene Ford, ED. P.O. Box 188, NY, NY 10014. Published approximately bimonthly. $1.25 per issue, $7.00 for 6 issues and $12.00 for 12 issues.

Here's a truly enjoyable publication. The writing is crisp and tight and you'll be sure to get a smile or two from some of the more unusual happenings in wrestling. Highly recommended.

PINFALL: David Copeland, ED. 2 Clifton Park Ct, Melrose, Ma 02176. Published monthly. $1.50 per issue.

This bulletin picks up more and more momentum each month. You'll be sure to find great features, accurate ratings and some pretty clear pictures with each issue. Don't delay, jump on the PINFALL bandwagon today!

WRESTLING NEWS BULLETIN: Niles Driskell, ED. 3010 W. Cypress Dr. Muncie, Indiana 47304. Published monthly. $1.25 per issue. Yearly $12.00.

The editor has included more pages and more action in his bulletin. Ratings, features and opinions are what you'll find in WRESTLING NEWS BULLETIN. Definitely recommended.

WRESTLING WIRE: Barbi Barker, ED. 2019 Third Ave, New Brighton, Pa 15066. Published monthly. $1.60 per issue. The newsletter that's been around for a while is the *good* newsletter and that summarizes the story of WRESTLING WIRE. There are mostly results along with news and a letters page. The editor is also president of the Bret Hart fan club. Write her for further details.

CORRESPONDENCE

MARK DIRECTOR—Age 14, 21 Shetland Rd, East Brunswick, NJ 08816 likes the NWA, AWA, WCCW and WWF. His favorite wrestlers are Hulk Hogan, Randy Savage, the Fantastics and all the good guys.

DAVID GEORGE—Age 13, R.R. #2, Heatherton, Antigonish County, Nova Scotia, Canada BOH IRO likes Randy Savage and Elizabeth, Brutus Beefcake, Jake Roberts, Lex Luger, Hercules Hernandez, Ultimate Warrior, Steve Strong, Ted Arcidi, British Bulldogs (especially Davey Boy Smith) and the Road Warriors. Will answer all letters.

SHAUN DYER—Age 14, 130 Lone Tree Ct, Milpitas, Ca 95035 would like to hear from wrestling fans of Nikita Koloff, Ric Flair, Brutus Beefcake, Tom Zenk, Hulk Hogan, Rock 'n Roll Express and especially Randy Savage.

JACKIE ROSSO—5635 48B Ave, Delta, B.C. V4K 4E4 would like to hear from fans of Barry and Kendall Windham, Blackjack Mulligan, Rock 'n Roll Express, the Midnight Rockers, the NWA and the AWA.

ANY MATERIAL FOR REVIEW OR OTHER CORRESPONDENCE CAN BE SENT TO:
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WRESTLING EYE
JEMS INC.
P.O. BOX 138
MARLBORO, N.J. 07746

LIN LIANGHUI—Apt Blk 124, Yishun St. 11 $10-363 Singapore 2776 Republic of Singapore would like to hear from fans of Hulk Hogan. Will answer all letters.

BRIAN DILLON—Box 336, MacArthur, WV 25873 wants to hear from fans of Ronnie Garvin, Road Warriors and the Rock 'n Roll Express.

DEAN WHITE—41 St. Stephens St, Stephenville, Nfld Canada A2N 1L5 would like to hear from fans of the Ultimate Warrior, Brutus Beefcake, Jake Roberts and Junkyard

Dog.

MARTIN CAMPBELL—7601 N. 9th Ave, Apt 165, Pensacola, Fla 32514 would like to hear from all wrestling fans. Some of his favorites include Ultimate Warrior, Lex Luger, Sting, Rock 'n Roll Express, Michael Hayes, Don Muraco, Road Warriors, Brutus Beefcake, Jake Roberts, Chris Adams and Randy Savage. Will try to answer all letters.

CHRIS HAMMOND—Age 13, 58 Newlyn Drive, Aspley, Nottingham, England N.G.8.5.G.X. would like to hear from fans of Randy Savage, Brutus Beefcake, Paul Orndorff, Jake Roberts, Hulk Hogan, Ronnie Garvin and Ric Flair.

DEREK BROADHEAD—Age 12, 2234 Cervantes Way, Campbell, Ca 95008 likes Brutus Beefcake, Jimmy Garvin, Sting, Randy Savage, Jake Roberts, Ultimate Warrior, Lex Luger, Road Warriors, Bret Hart, British Bulldogs, Fantastics and Demolition.

SAMMI WAGNER—P.O. Box 1558, Rockwell, N.C. 28138 would like to hear from wrestling fans from all areas.

CASSANDRA MOORE—Age 13, 6152 Upland St, Philadelphia, Pa 19142 would like to hear from fans of Ronnie and Jimmy Garvin, R 'n R Express, Nikita Koloff, Dusty Rhodes, Road Warriors, Midnight Express, Lex Luger, Barry Windham, Kerry Von Erich, Strike Force, Rick Rude, Hercules Hernandez, Bret Hart, Steve and Shaun Simpson, Sting, Michael Hayes and the Fantastics. Wil respond to all who write.

JASON WEISS—Age 15, 2032 S. Juniper St, Phila, Pa 19148 wants to hear from all NWF fans.

JENN MELLO—1160 Somerset Ave, Dighton, Ma 02715 would like to hear from those who like Brutus Beefcake, Hulk Hogan, Jake Roberts, Randy Savage and the British Bulldogs.

TAMI CUNNINGHAM—Box 72, Shelburne Ontario, Canada LON 150 would like to hear from fans of the WWF, AWA and NWA.

KEVIN FLETCHER—R.R. 2 Box 211 G, Anderson, In 46011 would like to be pen pals with those who like the Road Warriors, Sting, Lex Luger, Hulk Hogan, Paul Orndorff, "Hacksaw" Jim Duggan, Bam Bam Bigelow, the Garvins, the Superpowers, the NWA and the WWF. Will reply to all letters.

AMY SUMNER—4207 Maplewood Court, Mobile, Alabama 36693 would like to hear from anyone who likes the Rock 'n Roll Express, Lex Luger, Sting, Barry Windham, Dusty Rhodes, Magnum TA, Shane Douglas, Ronnie Garvin, George 'the Animal' Steele, Randy Savage, Steve and Shaun Simpson, any Von Erich, the Fantastics, Midnight Rockers, Brutus Beefcake, Ultimate Warrior, Jim Duggan, Nikita Koloff, Chris Adams, Brad Armstrong, Tim Horner, Roddy Piper, the Road Warriors and anyone who *hates* Jim Cornette.

CLINT PADDISON—"Bogan Gully" Tomingley, N.S.W. 2869 Australia would like to hear from anyone interested in the WWF. His favorites include Brutus Beefcake, Randy Savage, Bam Bam Bigelow and Strike Force.

AMY OWEN—Age 13, P.O. Box 1365, Church Rd, Va 23833 would like to hear from fans of the Rock 'n Roll Express, Road Warriors, Lex Luger, Fantastics, Barry Windham, Tully Blanchard, Nikita Koloff, British Bulldogs, Strike Force, Randy Savage, Hulk Hogan, Magnum TA, Jake Roberts and Brutus Beefcake.

J. GREGORY—P.O. Box 512, Comack, NY 11725 has photos for sale. Write him for further details.

Write photographer Bob Miller for his list of photos at PO Box 397, Nolanville, Tx 76559

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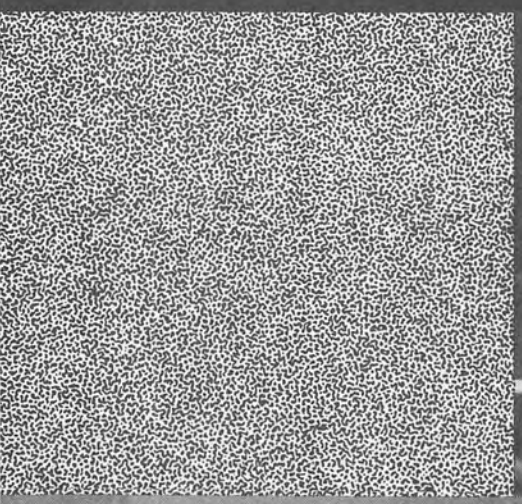
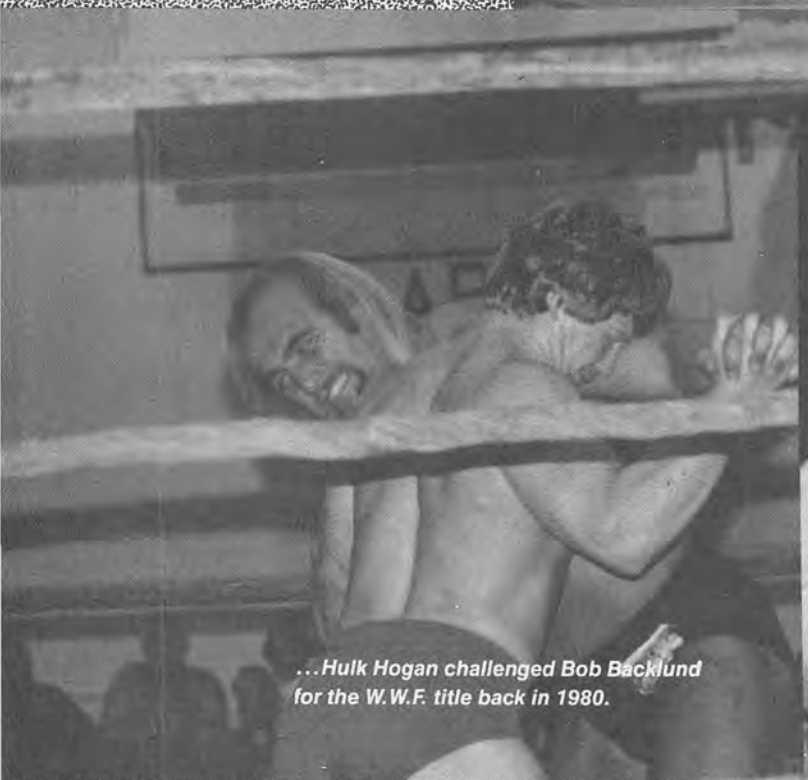
By Andy Korton

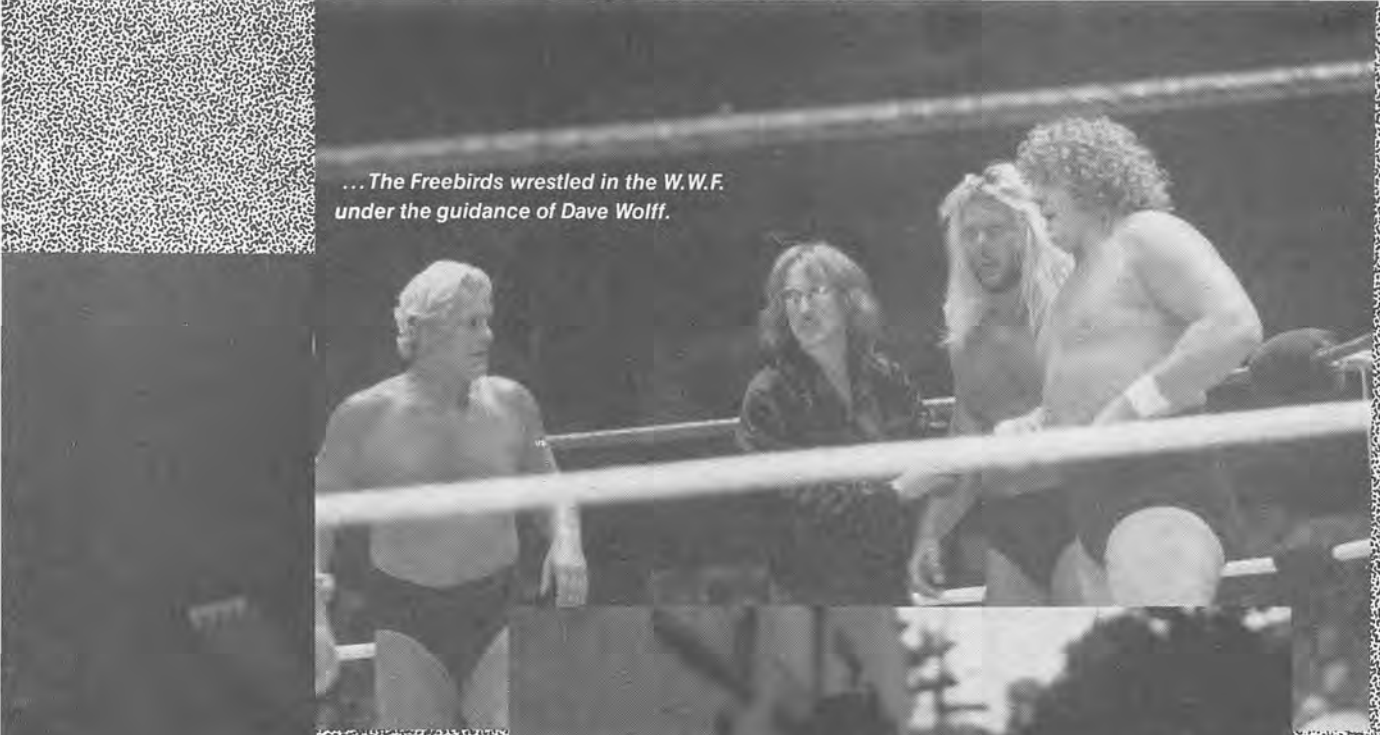




...Hulk Hogan challenged Bob Backlund for the W.W.F. title back in 1980.

...Larry Zbysko and David Sammartino fueded on every independent card on the east coast in 1982.

...The Anderson Bros. Ole and Gene ruled the N.W.A. tag team scene.



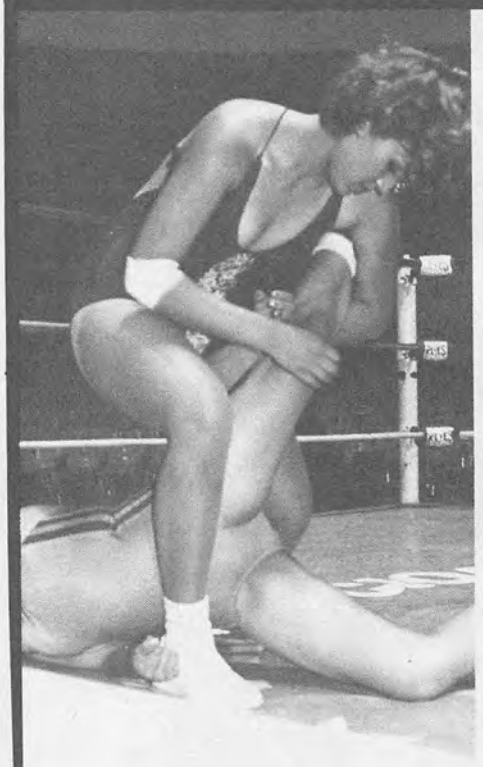
...The Freebirds wrestled in the W.W.F. under the guidance of Dave Wolff.

...the late Rick McGraw thrilled W.W.F. fans from coast to coast.

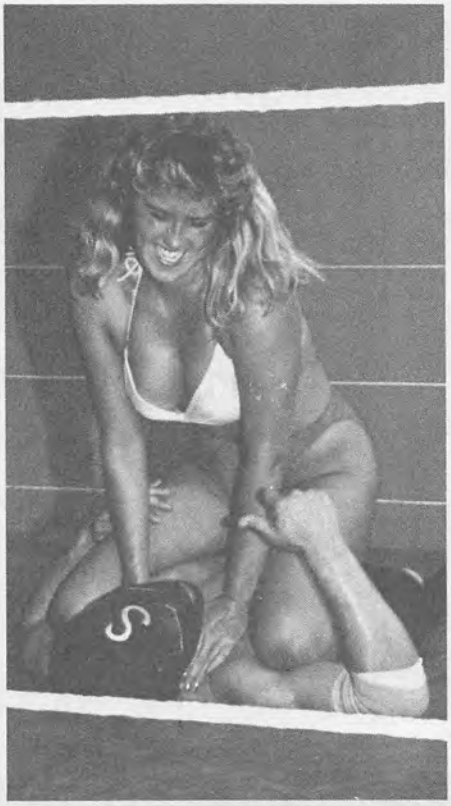
...Buddy Rogers managed Jimmy Snuka in the W.W.F., and then later went on to tag team with him in a few feature bouts.

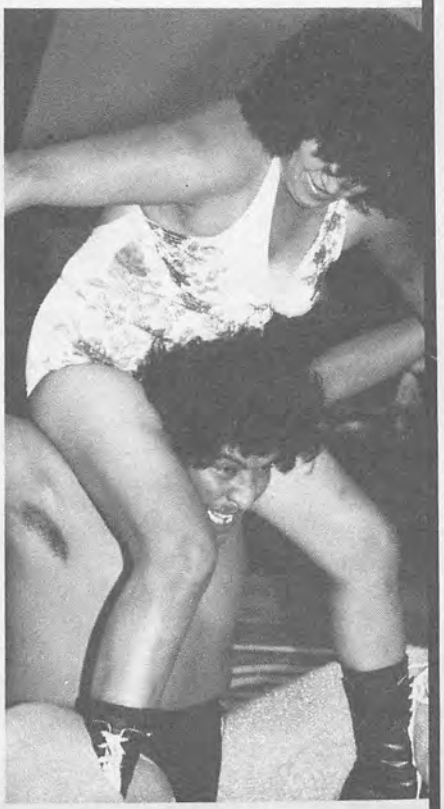
Videos & Photos
Real Matches in Pro Ring

LADY WRESTLING!

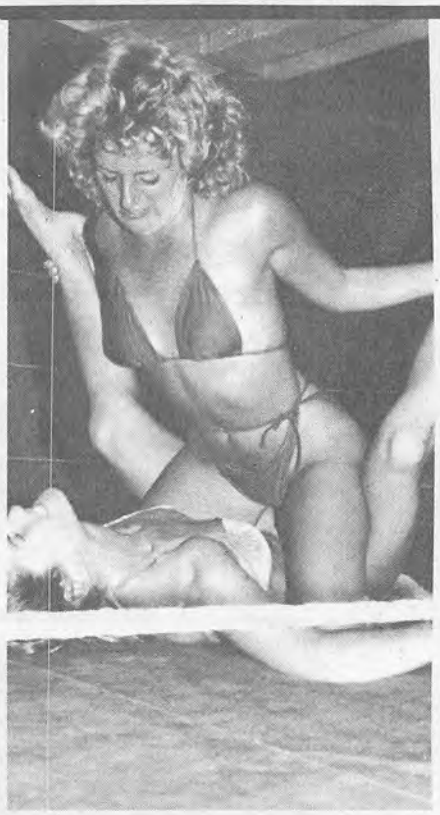


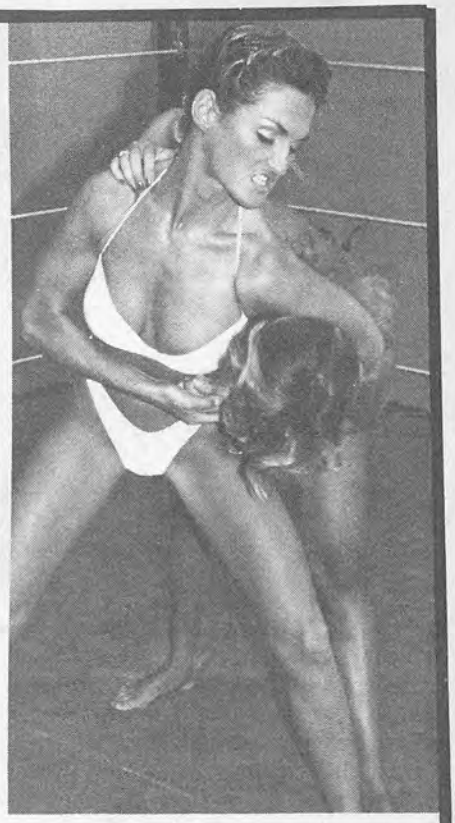
Pro Lady's



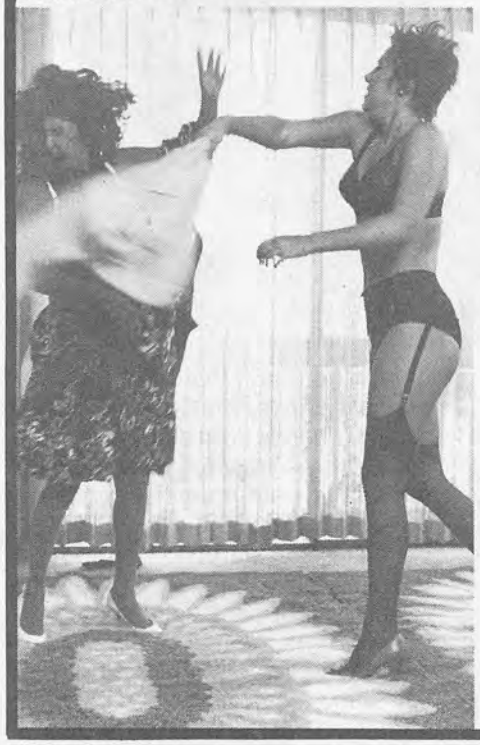


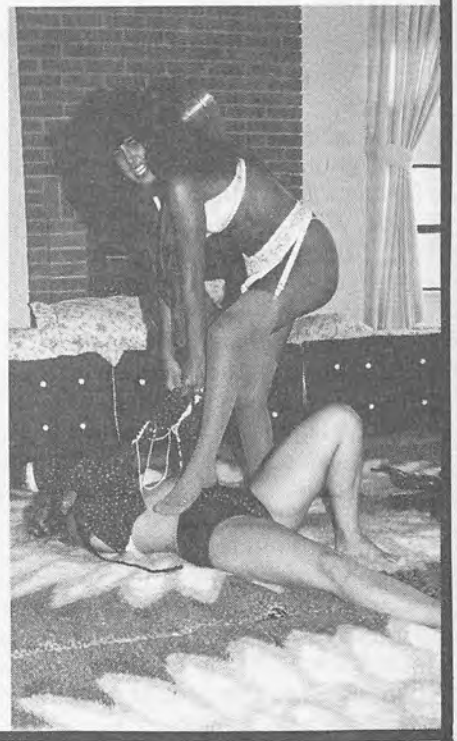
Male vs. Female





Bikini Matches





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PHANTOM of the ring

Bugsy is the Green Machine

Well, I'm back again with gossip, and more gossip!...The **Iron Sheik** is returning back to the W.W.F. very soon. It'll be great to see the **Iron Sheik** back in the major promotion's spotlight...**Paul E. Dangerously** has improved tremendously as of late. Currently he's hosting the T.V. wrestling program, "Pro Wrestling This Week". Good luck Paul!...**Barry Windham** surprisingly enough is a horseman now. Remember about four months back, WRESTLING EYE predicted it!...**Roddy Piper** is supposed to return to wrestling in the Oregon Area for Don Owens Promotions. Rowdy Roddy, welcome back!... **Bret Hart** and **Badnews Brown** are having some tremendous matches in the W.W.F. arenas. If this match comes to your town again, don't miss it. **Bret Hart** is truly one of the greatest wrestlers in the sport today...**George "the Animal" Steele** recently had a heart attack and was hospitalized for a while...**Harley Race** also spent a while in the hospital recently due to some intestinal problems. He should be back to action when you read this...**Terry 'Bam Bam' Gordy** and **Steve Williams** will be with the World Wrestling Federation during the summer... **Big Bubba** will also be coming along to the W.W.F., with 'prison guard' gimmick...**Big John Studd** will be back with the W.W.F. by August...**David Sammartino** whom was recently fired by the W.W.F. has been scheduled for three shows in the New York Area. Neither has he shown up for...Global Wrestling out of Florida is getting pretty heavy. **Lou Perez,** younger brother of former World Class champ, **Al Perez** is wrestling there ...**Butch Reed** has been fired by the W.W.F., reasons unknown... Managers in the W.W.F. are now being restricted to only appearing in big arenas and T.V. tapings. It appears the W.W.F. is trying to cut costs drastically. First they fire a lot of their wrestlers, now this...By the way speaking of managers, there are more managers in the N.W.A. now, than in the World Wrestling Federation...The A.W.A. is planning to tour the New York Metro Area on a regular basis. Watch out Verne, Crockett does bad here and so does the W.W.F....Noticed that **Luger** cured his ever present jock itch finally...The U.S.W.A. is doing a few shows during the summer with concerts by such stars as the Beach Boys...By the way, in case you don't know it the **Green Machine** who has been wrestling **Jimmy Valiant** all over lately is none other than, that's right you guess it, **Bugsy McGraw**...Once again, the Phantom's monthly plug. Attn—Wrestling Collectors interested in autographs, photos, dolls, etc., look no further! Simply send one 25¢ stamp to Big Andy, P.O. Box 383, Clifton, N.J. 07011 to receive a four page list of merchandise. Believe me this one has everything imaginable!...For those of you who are still not sure, yes, the Midnight Rider is **Dusty Rhodes** ...**Rick Steiner's** younger brother Scott is now wrestling in the CWA ...**Bad News Brown's** real name is Allan Coage...Look for the **Killer Bees** to turn heels shortly. The Kentucky Athletic Commission ruled that no wrestler can be tossed over the top rope. It's abide by the rules or face a stiff fine & suspension...Well, video tapes of Wrestlemania IV went on sale in May and sales are reported to be brisk...until next month, this is the Phantom signing off.

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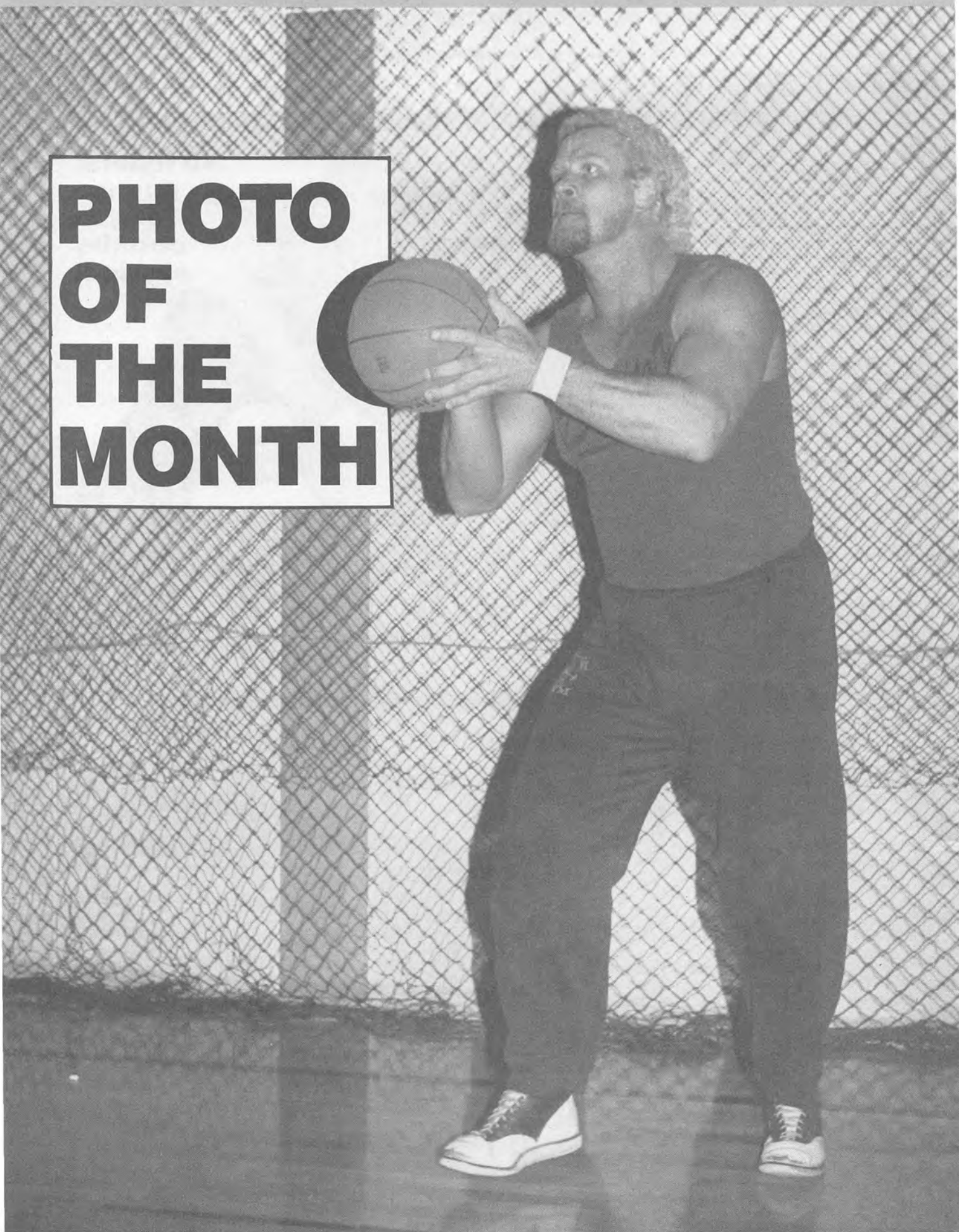
PHOTO OF THE MONTH



A look at Dr. D. outside the ring. He's quite competent in more than one sport.

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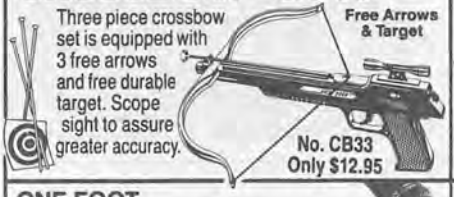

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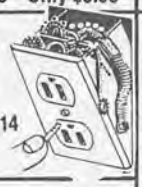

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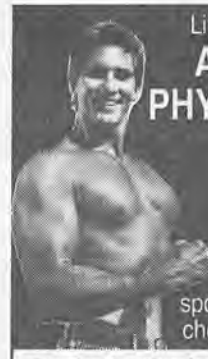

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WRESTLING EYE'S

WWF

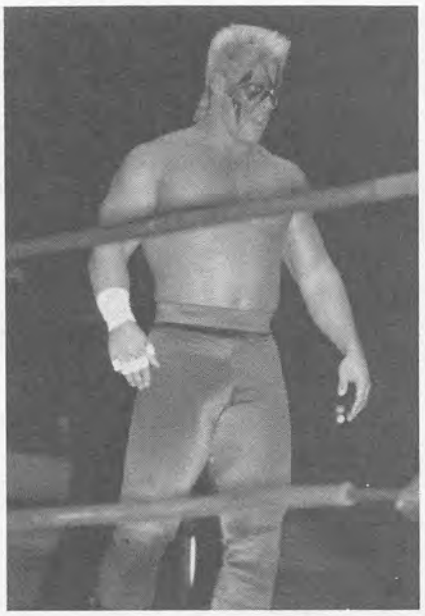
champ—Randy Savage

1. Ted DiBiase
2. Honkytonk Man
3. Hulk Hogan
4. Brutus Beefcake
5. One Man Gang
6. Bret Hart
7. Don Muraco
8. Ultimate Warrior
9. Jake Roberts
10. Rick Rude
11. Bam Bam Bigelow
12. Dino Bravo
13. Bad News Brown
14. Jim Niedhart
15. Ken Patera

NWA

Champ—Ric Flair

1. Dusty Rhodes
2. Lex Luger
3. Tully Blanchard
4. Barry Windham
5. Sting
6. Arn Anderson
7. Larry Zbyszko
8. Steve Williams
9. Ron Garvin
10. Jimmy Garvin
11. Mike Rotundo
12. Nikita Koloff
13. Bobby Eaton
14. Jimmy Valiant
15. Shane Douglas

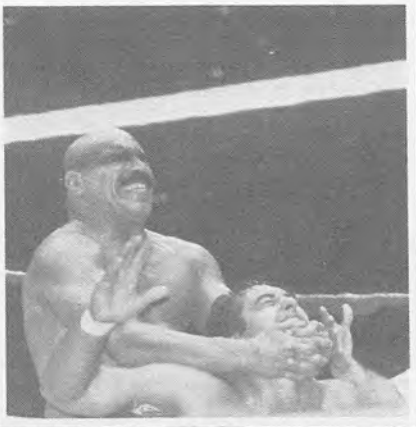


NWF

1. D.C. Drake
2. Sgt. Slaughter
3. Abdullah The Butcher
4. Bruiser Brody
5. Stan Hansen
6. Cousin Luke
7. Larry Winters
8. Col. DeBeers
9. Eddie Miranda
10. Randy Lewis

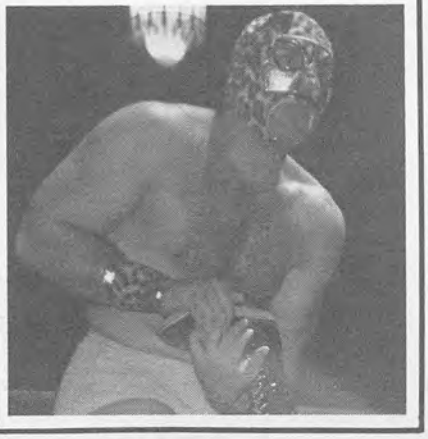
NCW

1. Sgt. Slaughter
2. Johnny Rodz
3. Iron Sheik
4. Abdullah the Butcher
5. Larry Sharpe
6. Toru Tanaka
7. Johnny Valiant
8. Ted Arcedi
9. Ox Baker
10. Cousin Luke



EWA

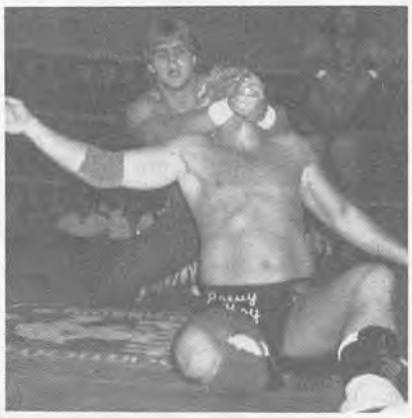
1. David Shultz
2. Sgt. Slaughter
3. The Cheetah Kid
4. Afa
5. Cousin Junior
6. Jules Strongbow
7. Tom Cairo
8. Davy Gee
9. Bull Butcher
10. Ox Baker



OFFICIAL RATINGS

AWA

1. Curt Hennig
2. Jerry Lawler
3. Greg Gagne
4. Wahoo McDaniel
5. Tommy Rich
6. Dick Slater
7. Adrian Adonis
8. Sean Michaels
9. Marty Jannetty
10. Mitch Snow



WORLD CLASS

1. Iceman Parsons
2. Kevin Von Erich
3. Kerry Von Erich
4. Al Perez
5. Steve Simpson
6. Brian Adias
7. Matt Borne
8. Sean Simpson
9. Jack Vistory
10. The Missing Link

World WOMEN Ratings

1. Misty Blue
2. Sensational Sherri
3. Wendi Richter
4. Candi Devine
5. Heidi Lee Morgan
6. Debbie Combs
7. Linda Dallas
8. Kat Leroux
9. Comrade Orga
10. Velvet McIntyre

TOP TEN MANAGERS

1. Bobby Heenan
2. Jimmy Hart
3. Jim Cornette
4. J.J. Dillon
5. Slick
6. Paul E. Dangerously
7. Paul Jones
8. Gary Hart
9. Paul Ellering
10. Sheik Abdullah

Top 15 Tag TEAMS

1. The Road Warriors
2. Demolition
3. Arn Anderson & Tully Blanchard
4. Strike Force
5. Midnight Rockers
6. Bobby Eaton & Stan Lane
7. The British Bulldogs
8. The Islanders
9. The Sheepherders
10. The Fantastics
11. Pat Tanaka & Paul Diamond
12. Paul Roma & Jimmy Powers
14. Lightning Express
15. Killer Bees

TOP 15

The WORLD'S TOP 15 (RATED BY WRESTLING ABILITY)

1. Ric Flair
2. Barry Windham
3. Bret Hart
4. Tully Blanchard
5. Ted DiBiase
6. Ricky Steamboat
7. Tatsumi Fuginami
8. Owen Hart
9. Riki Chosu
10. Bobby Eaton
11. The Cheetah Kid
12. Kieji Muto
13. Genichiro Tenryu
14. Randy Savage
15. Bruiser Brody

DID YOU MISS LAST MONTH'S ACTION?

NOV. '85

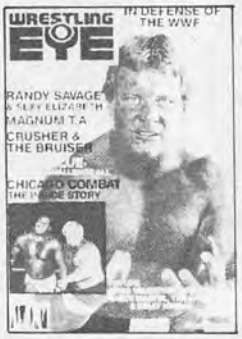
JAN. '86

FEB. '86

MAR. '86

APR. '86

MAY '86



JUNE '86

JULY '86

AUG. '86

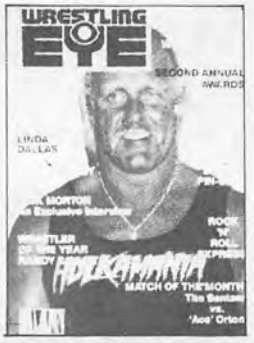
SEPT. '86

OCT. '86

NOV. '86

DEC. '86

JAN. '87



FEB. '87

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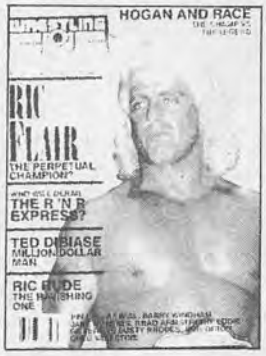
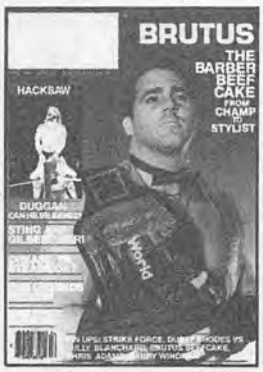


DEC. '87

JAN. '88

FEB. '88

MAR. '88



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JUNE '88

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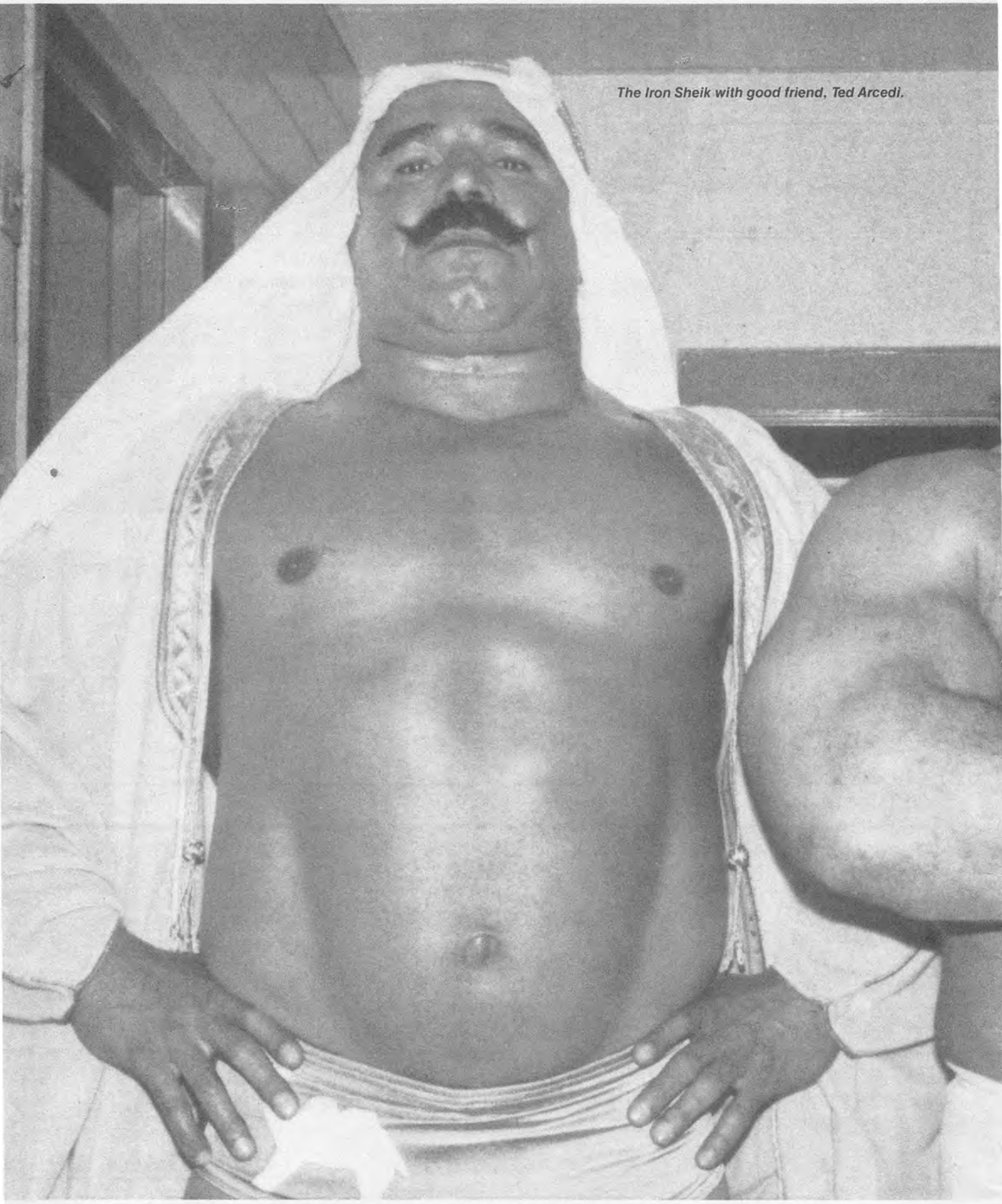
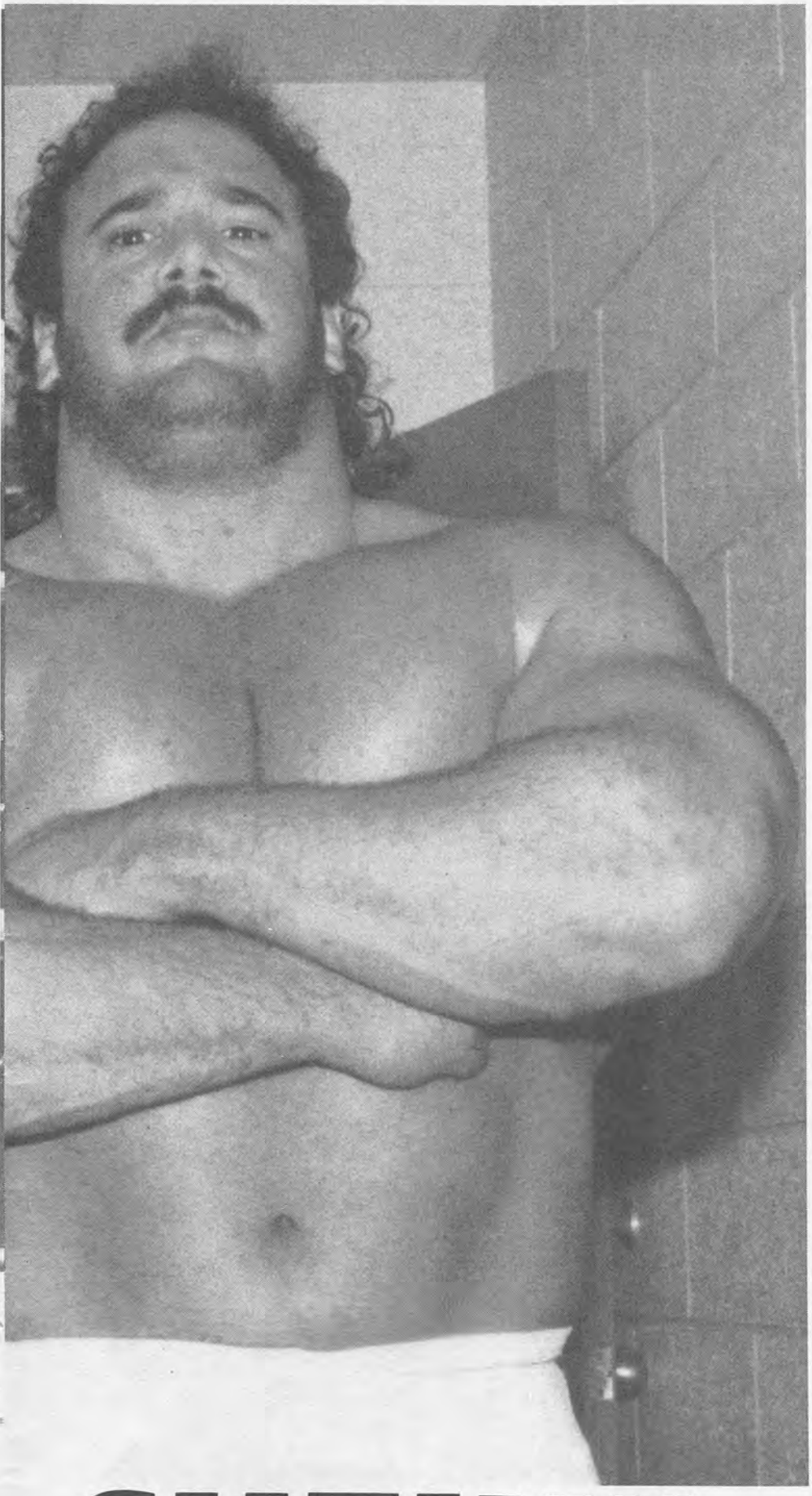


The Iron Sheik with good friend, Ted Arcedi.

"THE IRON



SHEIK"

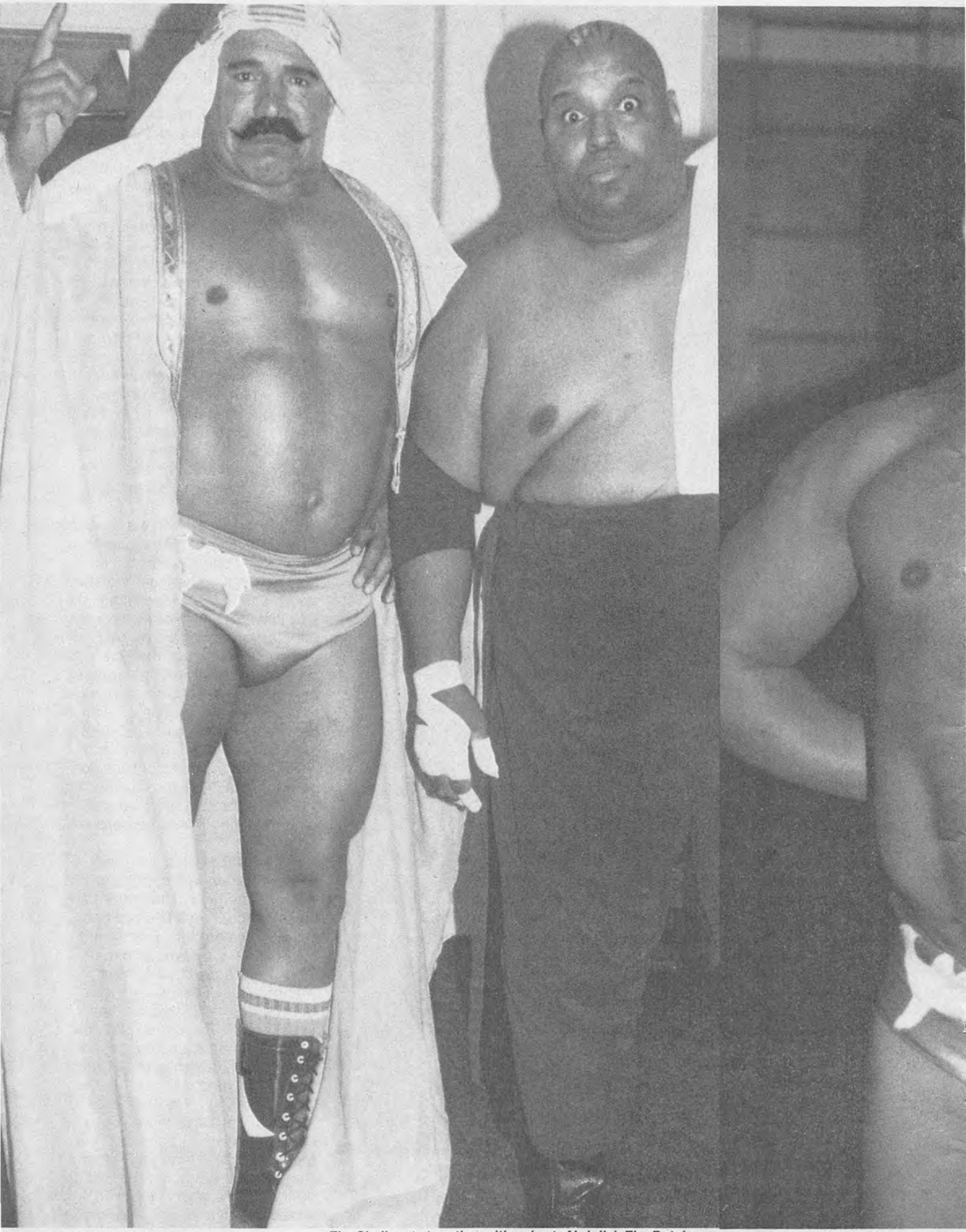
By Tom Clutters

The Iron Sheik has always been able to handle himself inside the ring. Whether it be in a matchup of technical skills or a face-to-face slugging match, the Sheik could take on all comers. His vast knowledge of the sport and its maneuvers has brought him recognition as one of the tops in the business.

Outside, in the "real world", however, it has been a different story for the Sheik. No competitor, with the exception of maybe Bob Orton, has had more clashes with the American system. Among other incidents, the Sheik was charged with assault in February of 1985 in New Jersey on a ringside fan, who said the Sheik threw a chair at him. Nothing major ever came of that incident, since the fan wasn't injured. Later, the Sheik was accused of assaulting a gas station attendant, but again, the situation was resolved with little fanfare.

Then, on May 27 of last year, the Sheik was one of the principals in what is still being called the biggest scandal in the history of the sport. The Sheik, along with Hacksaw Jim Duggan, were arrested on the Garden State Parkway in New Jersey. Officers said their car was moving erratically on the highway, and subsequent investigations led to the Sheik being charged with possession of cocaine and marijuana, and Duggan with driving while intoxicated and possession of marijuana. Needless to say, the incident affected the careers of both men, and raised numerous questions.

For instance, what were the Sheik and Duggan, supposedly the worst of enemies in the ring, doing traveling together? The two had many fierce battles in the World Wrestling Federation, and their "war" was a top draw for McMahon & Co. Two theories have been forwarded, since neither wrestler has chose to explain his actions. It was speculated that the Sheik was attempting to get Duggan to "change his ways" in the weeks leading up to the incident. "It could well be that the Iron Sheik, with encouragement from his friends, was trying to befriend Duggan in order to get him out of their hair," said one observer. "It's a trick that's been used in the past;



The Sheik gets together with cohort, Abdullah The Butcher.

An awesome competitor from Iran, The Iron Sheik (photo By M. Lepore)

"WRESTLING'S MISUNDERSTOOD MAN"

if you can't beat 'em, get 'em to join you." The other explanation is just about a reversal of the first. For some time, many have insisted that the Iron Sheik wasn't as anti-American as he would like you to believe. After all, as Kosrow Vaziri (his real name) he did help to coach the U.S. Olympic team in 1972 after competing for his native Iran in '68. After becoming a professional, he worked with Verne Gagne to instruct youngsters at Gagne's school. Insiders will tell you that the Sheik has spent much time over the years giving tips and special instruction to many rookie types. It could well be that Duggan, who is nowhere as dumb as he acts, was trying to convert the Sheik to the role of hero, a role that Vaziri had never played before.

No matter what the reasons for them being together, May 27 changed all of that. Duggan, who was just beginning to make his mark in the WWF, was suspended for a month, then allowed to return. Now, he is one of the federation's top names, currently feuding with Ted DiBiase and Andre the Giant. To most, Duggan's role in the controversy has been forgotten. The Iron Sheik's fortunes, however, have taken a downward turn.

To put it simply, the WWF fired the Sheik. Before you knew it, he was gone, vanished, kaput. Remember, this not some untalented preliminary stooge we're talking about. This man has held both the singles and tag team championships, and was the federation's number one heel for a long time. It has been suggested that McMahon, looking to get rid of what he considered "deadwood", had been searching for a way to relieve himself and the WWF of the Sheik's contract for some time, and the situation simply aided the process. The Sheik's anti-American, pro-Iranian gimmick had just about worn out, and McMahon was ready to bring in new blood. Whatever the case, the Iron Sheik was finished in the WWF.

After spending some time working for the major independents in the East, he eventually wound up in the World Class area, trying to put his career back in order. At last glance, the Sheik's gimmick was working once again with the Texas fans, as he feuded with "all-American" Matt Borne and the Von Erichs. But the question remains: is this the end of the line for the Iron Sheik?

Make no mistake about it. During his heyday, the Iron Sheik was one of the best. His technical skills inside the squared circle impressed even his most ardent detractors. But pride in his native land and the world political situation dictated that he be matched against the likes of Sgt. Slaughter, Barry Windham, and Mike Rotundo, who represented what America was all about. Maybe the Sheik didn't agree with his image, but you have to earn a living, don't you? He has worked in both the NWA and AWA, but his fame and fortune were made in WWF land. Under the guidance of Freddie Blassie, the Sheik won the WWF title from Bob Backlund on December 26, 1983, but lost the belt a couple of months later to a rising star by the name of Hulk Hogan. A little over a year later, he teamed with Nikolai Volkoff to defeat Windham & Rotundo for the tag team championships. With Blassie calling the shots, Sheik & Volkoff were a devastating team, but the alliance began to slide when Freddie, in ill health, sold his team's contract to the controversial newcomer named Slick. It was obvious that the Slickster wasn't Blassie-caliber material, and the duo eventually split up. The Sheik worked mostly undercards for a while, until his feud with Duggan became hot. Then, it all ended.

Will the Iron Sheik ever get back into the spotlight again? For the former champ, his only home is the W.W.F.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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ATT: EDITOR

Dear WRESTLING EYE,

Hi, my name is Rich. I saw Wrestlemania IV and I would like to know how people can like Hulk Hogan after what he did. I can't believe he interfered and everybody cheered him. If Bobby Heenan or Jimmy Hart would have done that, everyone would have booed them. I think there should be a rematch and nobody should be allowed ringside. Then, everybody would see DiBiase crowned champion.

An ex-Savage fan,
Rich Bonjour
Freeport, Il

Dear WRESTLING EYE,

This comment is directed towards the NWA. What's with them? Do they think wrestling fans are stupid? A two year old could figure out that the Midnight Rider is Dusty Rhodes. If the NWA says they are going to suspend Rhodes for four months, they should do as they say. They should also be a little more original! Didn't they use the same gimmick about five years ago when Rhodes was the Midnight Rider? C'mon Crockett, quit insulting our intelligence. This is a disgrace to wrestling. Everyone says the WWF is a circus. Well, the NWA is getting to be one too!

Rick Doucette
Millville, Canada

Dear WRESTLING EYE,

Your magazine is awesome!! Keep up the good work. I have a lot to say. First, my favorite wrestler is Rick Rude. He has a great body! I bet Hulk Hogan wishes he has a body like Rick's. Hogan can't compare to Rick in any way. Maybe Hulk Hogan should take some lessons from Rick Rude on how to become a real man.

Anna Assenato
Westchester, Ill

Dear WRESTLING EYE,

I am a big fan of NWF wrestling. About a year ago, "Mad Dog" D.C. Drake defended his title against Chief Jules Strongbow in a dog collar match. I was wondering if they can meet again in a dog collar, steel cage, anything goes match with barbed wire on the top of the cage. If this match does come up, can you please put color pin ups of that match in WRESTLING EYE magazine.

Jason Weiss
Phila, Pa

Dear WRESTLING EYE,

I just want to say that your magazine is the greatest. I buy it every month. I enjoy the stories and the big events that are covered. I would like to see more Barry Windham, Ultimate Warrior, Don Muraco, Lex Luger, Jake Roberts, Bret Hart and Sting in the magazine. Some wrestlers that I think are terrible are Ted DiBiase, Demolition and especially Honky Tonk Man. Keep bringing those terrific pin ups.

Shaun Dyer
Milpitas, Ca

Dear WRESTLING EYE,

I've been reading your magazine for many years now, and I love it. But, the real reason I'm writing is because I am disgusted with a letter from Brian Hurst in the May 1988 issue. First of all, he said that Demolition wears cheap clothes. Well, the Road Warriors wear those cheap spikes and very stupid make up. Demolition could take on the Road Warriors any day of the week. He also said that Vince McMahon tried to get an imitation tag team. Well, McMahon wouldn't want to imitate the Road Warriors because no one would want cheap wrestlers in their association or federation. Also, if he had any brains, he would know that Demolition won the tag team titles in Wrestlemania IV. I would also like to reply to the line "I wish the Road Warriors were in the WWF so they could beat Demolition and show them who the real warriors of the ring are." The WWF wouldn't want the Road Warriors in their federation because they wouldn't want their dumb haircuts and no talent moves.

Keith Petreins
Pompton Lakes, NJ

Dear WRESTLING EYE,

You know something? I am really tired of the double standard in the WWF. Every time Andre the Giant uses a sleeper hold, it's called a choke hold. Every time Ron Bass brings Betsey into the ring, it's called weapon, but if Hacksaw Duggan brings a 2x4 into the ring, it's fine and dandy. Poor ole Hacksaw has really gone down since coming the WWF. Now, he needs a helper to win his matches (2x4) where as in the UWF he used his

own talent. It just goes to prove that any wrestler who goes to the WWF is usually just marking time to retirement, like Superstar Billy Graham, who was one of the greatest next to Dusty Rhodes and Harley Race. It's also possible they go to the WWF to wait to make a movie, like Jesse Ventura and Roddy Piper. I feel that if Vince McMahon doesn't feel that he puts on wrestling matches, but rather "sports entertainment", the WWF should not appear in respectable wrestling magazines, but in movie magazines or MTV.

If you want to see real wrestling, you should watch NWA, World Class, POWW and some AWA. If you want clowns and pseudo wrestling you watch the Wimpy Wrestling Federation. The NWA has a valet/manager who isn't a crybaby like Elizabeth, but someone who will tackle MEN like Tully Blanchard, Kevin Sullivan and any other man who tries to bother her or interfere in Jimmy Garvin's matches Enough said, NWA is by far the best!

Mrs Bobbie Buttry
Sikeston, Mo

Dear WRESTLING EYE,

I read a letter that Mark Petrusik sent in in your May 1988 issue that upset me. He said that the Road Warriors were scared to go to the WWF. The Road Warriors would destroy teams like Strike Force, Demolition, the Bolsheviks and any other team there. As for the Roadies being chicken, I would like to see Mr. Petrusik step into the ring with the Warlord and the Barbarian as Animal and Hawk have.

I am a loyal Road Warrior fan and I would like idiots like Mark Petrusik to shut their crazy mouths unless they can back it up.

Ed Metcalf
Everett, Wa

Dear Editor,

First of all I should say that I'm writing in from London Ontario, Canada and aside from you having a great magazine, I love your coverage and colored posters of the superstars of the NWA.

There's one thing though, that bothers me and with the help of your magazine, I can get it out in the open. Who does Ric Flair think he is?! You know Ric, I love the way you chicken out and crawl out of the ring or beg to your opponent when he has the advantage over you. Don't say it isn't true because along with being a stinky hot shot, you're a hell of a liar too!

You know, Lex Luger made the right move in dumping you guys. It's the best thing he has done so far in his professional career. I know Lex is better off on his own. He doesn't need you and NO! he wasn't the weak spot of the Four Horsemen. Lex Luger was the strongest of all and the problem was through your dirty tricks and cheap shots, he couldn't show how powerful he was as he's stick to the plan. Now, Lex has great friends like the one and only Barry Windham and Sting.

Ric Flair man, you better stop counting your blessings and start saying your prayers. Sting has your number and he's going to take away your precious belt once and for all. You lost it once to Ronnie Garvin and hell knows why you won it back at Starrcade. Well, for one thing Flair, we all know how you play! Lex Luger know, Sting knows and I know. If you want to play dirty Flair, Sting can play dirtier! "Ricky baby", you might act tough and lose your train of thought and use words in front of gorgeous women, but everyone has their weak spots and Sting can make a man out of you anyday!

Margaret Spiteri
Ontario, Canada

Dear WRESTLING EYE,

I am writing to all wrestling fans of Nature Boy Buddy Landell. I say let's see Buddy Landell go to the NWA and become the newest member of the Four Horsemen. He has class and knows all the Horsemen. J.J. was his manager back in 85-86. Buddy would be a true Horseman and right now they need a true stablemate. Arn and Tully can go after the tag team belts. Buddy can go and get the U.S. belt from Dusty Rhodes. Buddy would then be back with his manager. Ric, Arn, Tully and Buddy-there would be your Four Horsemen and J.J. is the Head Master.

H.R. Robert
Sandusky, Ohio

WRESTLING EYES

LETTER OF THE MONTH

Is Elizabeth suffering from a tarnished image?

Dear Editor,

I used to respect and admire Elizabeth, wife and manager of Randy Savage, but lately she seems to be dressing like some cheap, street walking floozy. She is very pretty and doesn't need to come to the ring like some half dressed tramp. If the WWF or herself feel that's the only way to attract attention and make themselves megabucks, then they all have a problem. It's about time she stops acting like some airheaded exhibitionist who just stands at ringside like a statue. If Elizabeth is really intelligent, why doesn't she display that, instead of being displayed like a Playboy centerfold?

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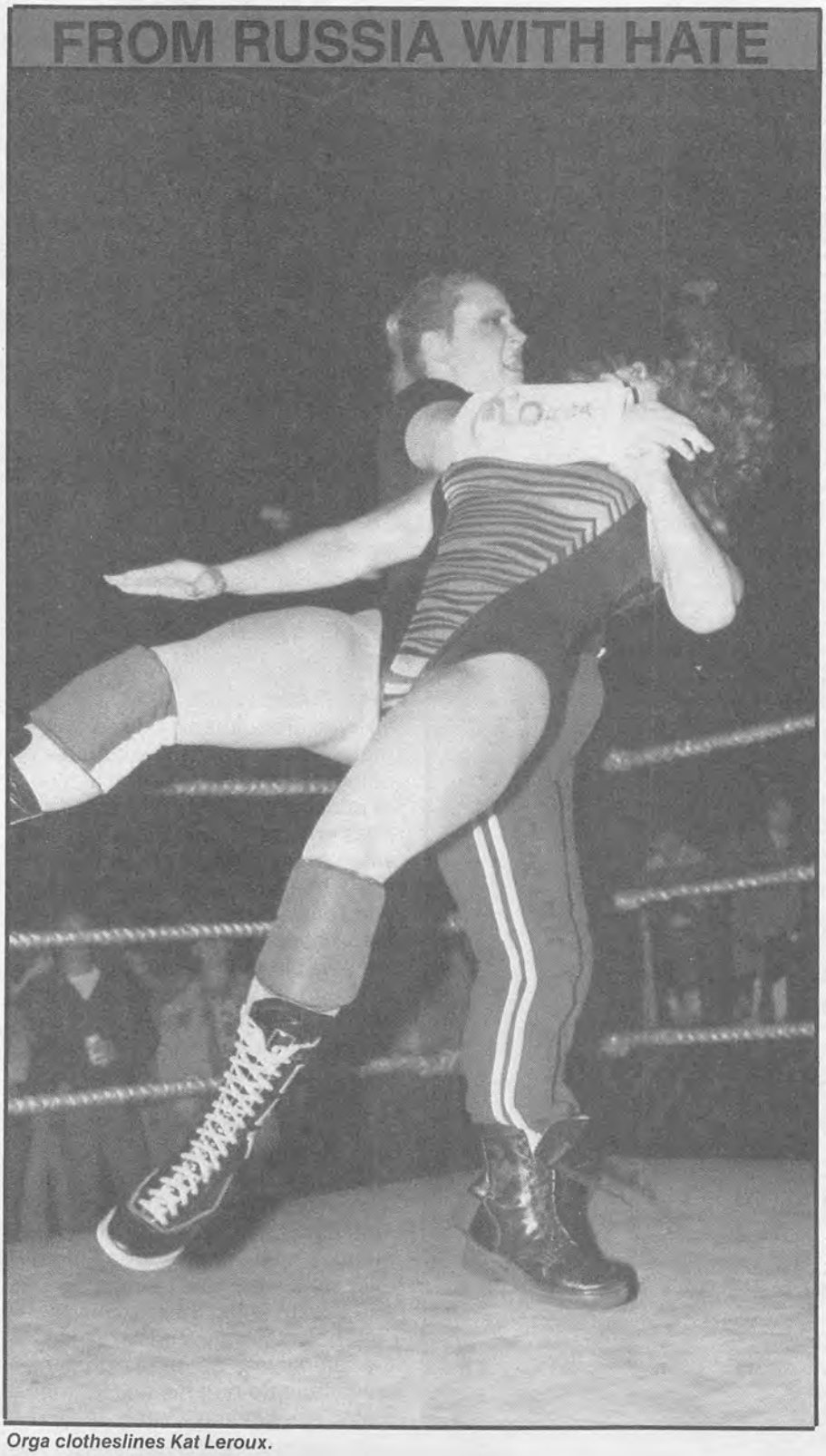
COMRADE ORGA



Orga clotheslines Kat Leroux.

By Don Liable

...And in this corner from Moscow, weighing in at 205 lbs. Comrade Orga Stalinski. Those words of introduction by ring announcers in arenas throughout the wrestling communities have been known to cause unrest and near riots. The giant Soviet female athlete is anti-American on just about every topic you can come up with except one—the good old U.S. dollar. During the past year that Comrade Orga has been granted a special visa by her homeland's government officials to participate in athletic competition, more specifically professional wrestling, never has a woman so quickly entered the mat scene and become the focal point of rookies and veterans alike.

Orga is big, as one mat veteran has so fittingly dubbed her the Andre the Giant of the womans division, and she continues to virtually walk all over so-called worthy opponents without working up much of a sweat. Then again, how many ladies do you know can stop an enraged 5'10" 205 lb. wrestling machine?

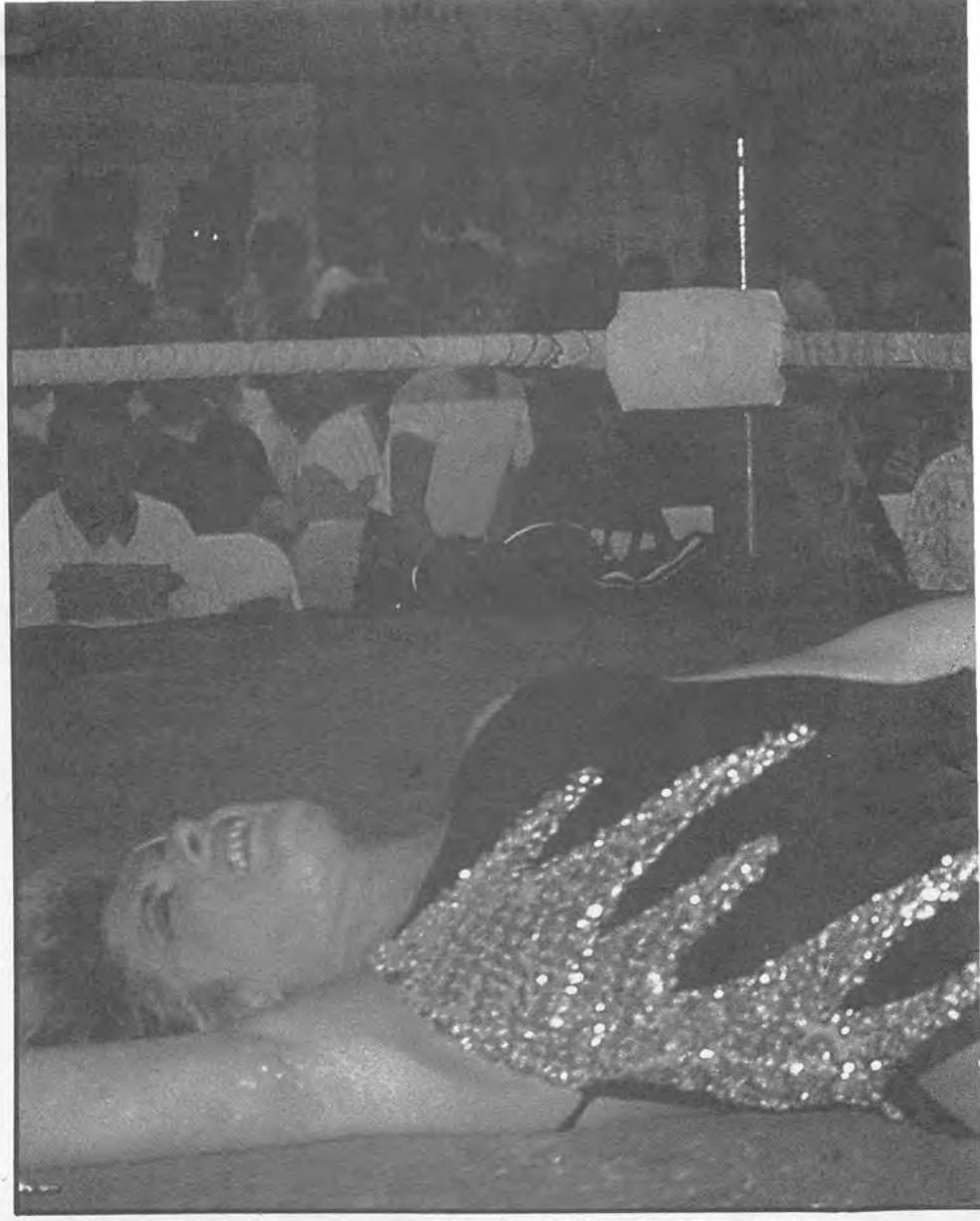
It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out why Orga hasn't made many friends within her profession, since stepping in U.S. rings. She's mean, rude and crude. Pain and defeat are two words that the Moscow native has found foreign when challenged by opponents. Oh, she enjoys putting the hurt on her challengers but when she's on the receiving end of a slap, kick or even a bite, perhaps installed through her training program, Orga shows no motion.

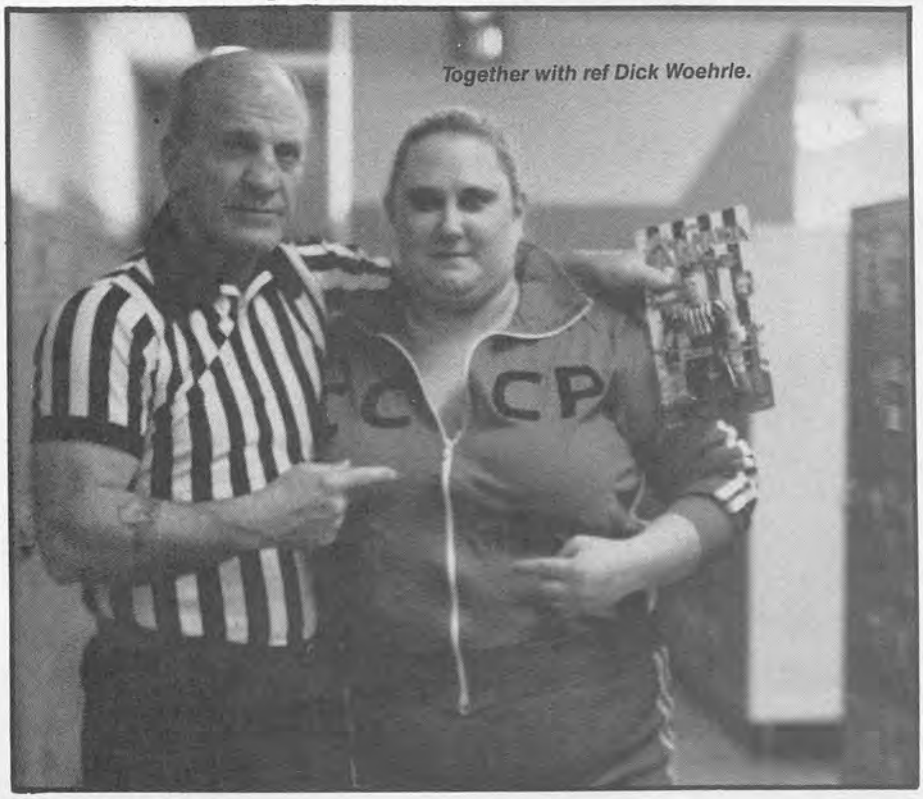
'Hey, let me tell you straight out. Stalinski belongs in the mens division. I've been in wrestling for fifteen years and have never come across an opponent as tough as her. She's bigger than any other female ever to step in between the

ropes in this country. I've squared off against her on two occasions, one match ended up as a no contest and the other was ruled a double disqualification. Being in the ring with "Mother Russia" and expecting as close to normal wrestling match that fans are used to seeing is nearly impossible. It's the referees and the judges fault that she's so wild, they need to suspend her for as many times as it takes until Orga gets the message. If she can't abide by the rules, ship her back home', a fired up Susan Green said while appearing on a wrestling program in Toledo, Ohio.

Green isn't the only female grappler calling for tighter control on Stalinski's ring behavior. In Dickson, Tennessee, at the National Guard Armory last April, Lisa Darnell, a young, inexperienced wrestler looking to make a name for herself in such a competitive line of work, learned a valuable and unfortunately agonizing lesson, don't bite off more than you can chew. With only five pro matches to her credit, even thinking of challenging a vicious, seasoned pro like Orga is absurd. Actually signing the contract and stepping in the ring with her is ludicrous.

'I tried to convince her not to do it. Peggy Lee, Susan Starr, Vivian St. John and a couple other ladies who have years of ring experience



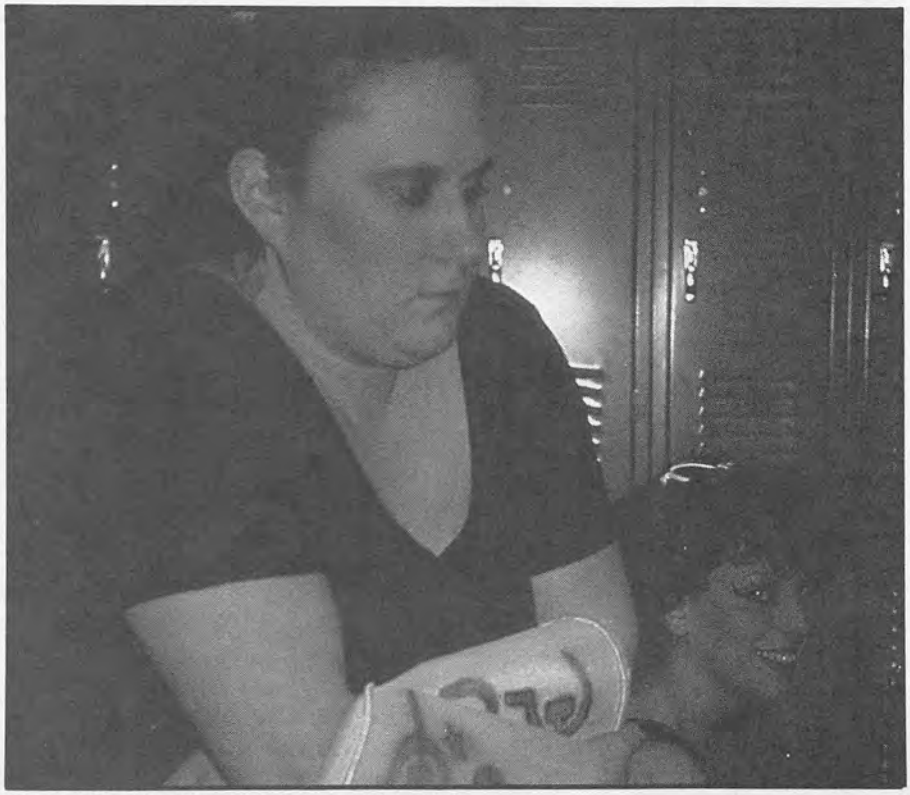


Together with ref Dick Woehrle.

showed Lisa films on Orga's matches and what she's capable of doing. I think it was a combination of pride, enthusiasm and eagerness on Lisa's part as to why, when the opportunity presented itself, she accepted to wrestle the giant Russian. Lisa wasn't ready for an opponent of such experience as Orga. Heck, Lisa is only 5'3" and 120 lbs. There's a lot of fight in her but not enough at this stage in her career to tangle with an international superstar as Stalinski', a sincere Tracy Richards stated before her match in Hartford, Connecticut.

The fans looked on in disbelief, the mighty Orga went to work in a direct, and perhaps in an illegal manner, on her challenger. Before Lisa knew what was transpiring and how to react, the match was over before it truly started. When the referee was about to signal the timekeeper to ring the bell for the match's beginning, Comrade Orga

She rips apart a helpless opponent.



Orga gathers her thoughts before a big match.

pulled Lisa's green sequined ring jacket over the youngster's head. Unable to see the target she wanted to retaliate against, Darnell was the proverbial "sitting duck". While attempting to pull the two women apart, the referee officially had the wild scrap started.

Hip tosses, leg drops to the chest and body slam after body slam weakened Darnell to the point that Orga was in the comfortable position of pinning her opponent at will. However, the giant Russian apparently wanted to "play" with her foe, tossing Darnell around the ring as if she was a rag doll. What put the finishing touch on Darnell was the heavy, black leather boots worn by Orga. With blood coming from her challenger's mouth due to two teeth being knocked out courtesy of a telegraphed, direct punch to the nasal area, Stalinski then put Darnell down for good with a boot to the chest, which caught the rookie as she was coming off the

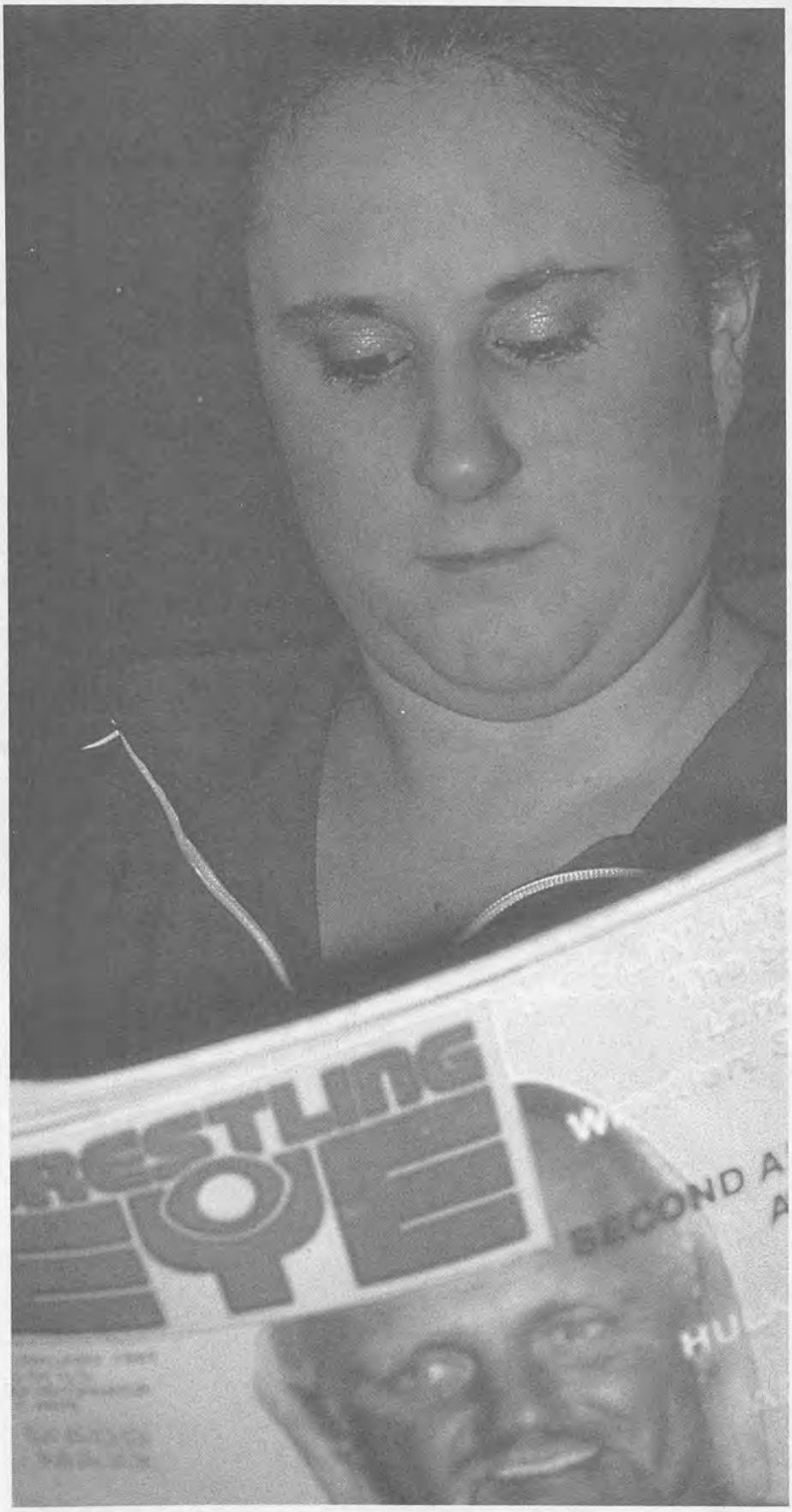
Orga catches up with WRESTLING EYE.

ropes. With Lisa Darnell flat on her back, beaten to the point of semi-consciousness, Comrade Orga Stalinski stood proudly over her, with her left foot planted firmly on Lisa's stomach as the long awaited three count by the referee was completed. This beastly confrontation didn't resemble a wrestling match. It had all the traits of a mugging. Then again, this kind of savagery is the style that has made Stalinski the most feared wrestler among women in the profession today.

'You can say what you want about her but when you want to win, being sweet and honest doesn't always work. More than any other girl in the sport, I've gotten pretty close with Orga. You know the old saying "the end justifies the means", that's Orga's wrestling career theme. The two of us teamed up for a match in Palmer, Massachusetts, that was the easiest money I ever made. Orga did all the work, you wouldn't believe her stamina, all I did was "mop up". When Barbara Owens, one of the girls on the team we opposed, was ripe for the pin, I came in the ring, got in a few good hits on her and then put a piledriver on her for the finish. Nobody messes around with you with Comrade Orga at your side', "Mad Dog" Debbie sarcastically stated.

When Stalinski first arrived in North America she said the main objective for her tour was to test her Eastern European wrestling background to the Western style of wrestling. That objective has now taken a 180 degree turn in meaning. Through an interpreter, before a match in Nashua, New Hampshire, Stalinski said, 'It is to the weaker American women wrestlers advantage to forget their previous approach to this sport and use my methods, the right methods. The Russian way of training and approach to an opponent is the most beneficial, if you want to stay on top in this profession. Look at all the money I've collected in just a year. The U.S. girls will learn there is my way of approach or the wrong way. If they aren't with me, I'll squash them like grapes. So far, wrestling in America has been fun and lucrative. I think I'll stay a while longer'.

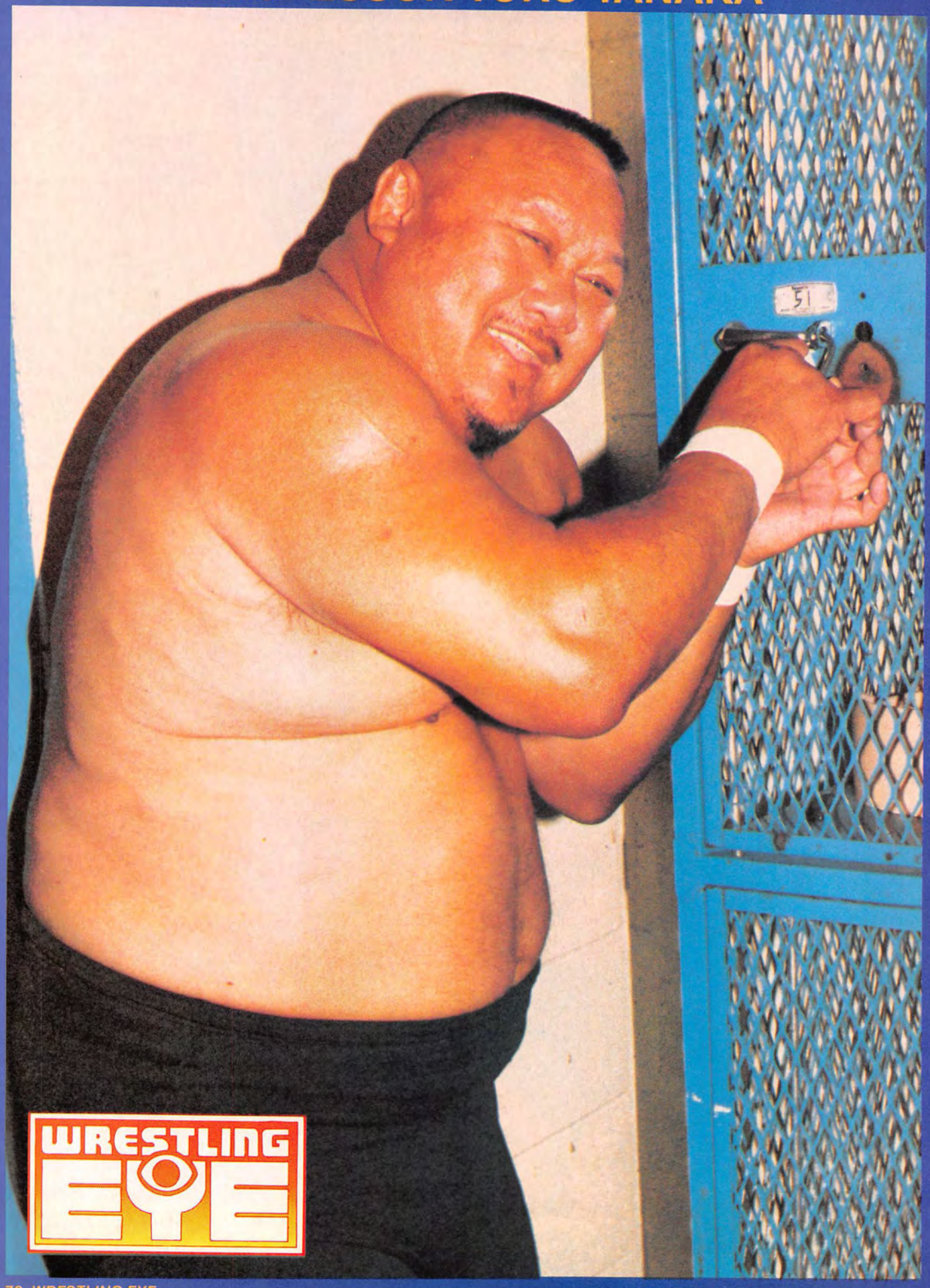
Sure Comrade Orga Stalinski is riding high on an unbeaten streak. However, as time has proven in the past, what goes around comes around. Although she may be gleefully stomping the breath right out of her opponents at the present time, sooner or later Orga will be faced with a contract, bearing the names Debbie Combs, Misty Blue or Candi Divine as opponents. Then lets see how boastful the giant Russian will be!



"HACKSAW" JIM DUGGAN

Photo By Jack Russell

PROFESSOR TORU TANAKA



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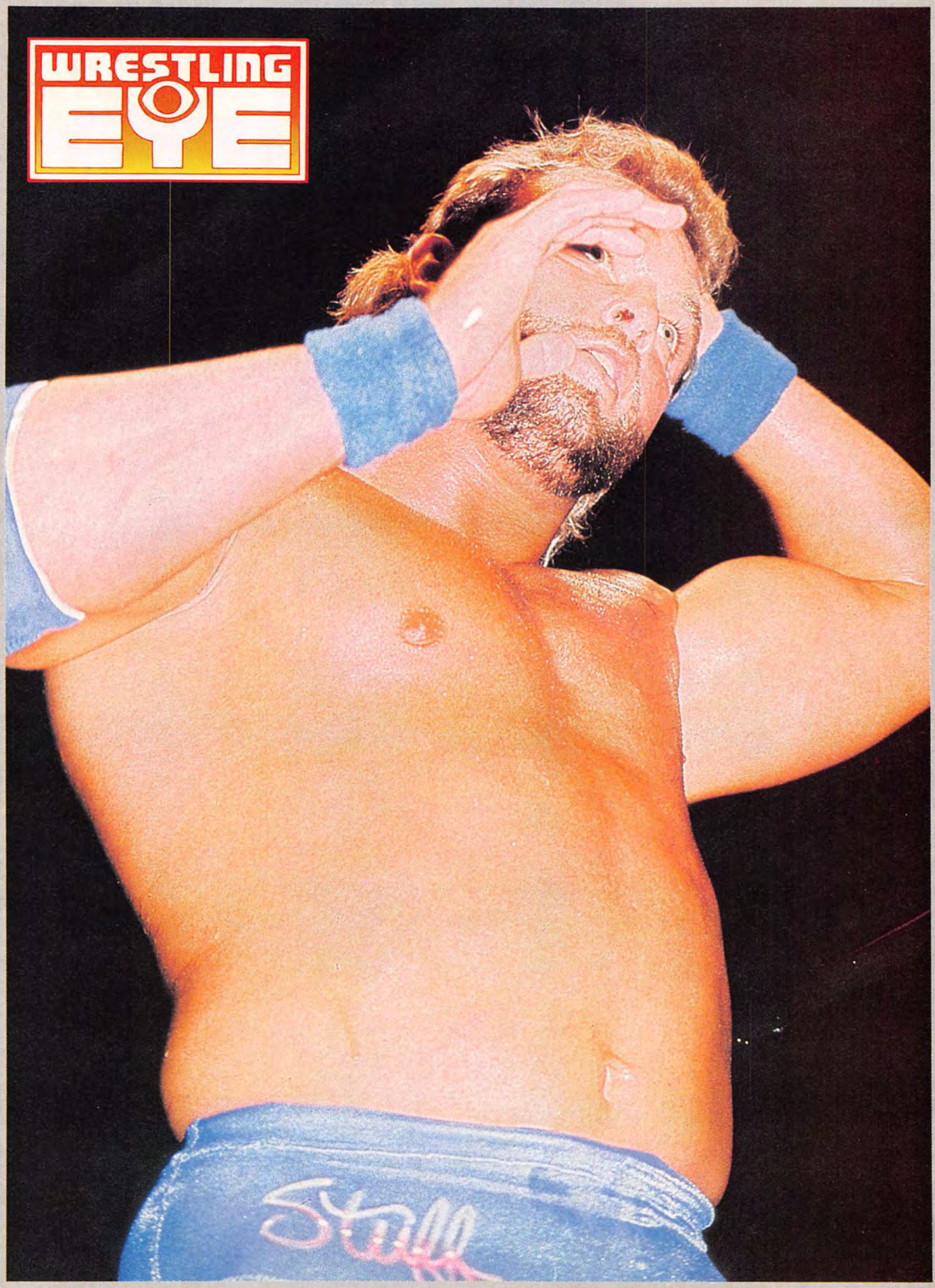

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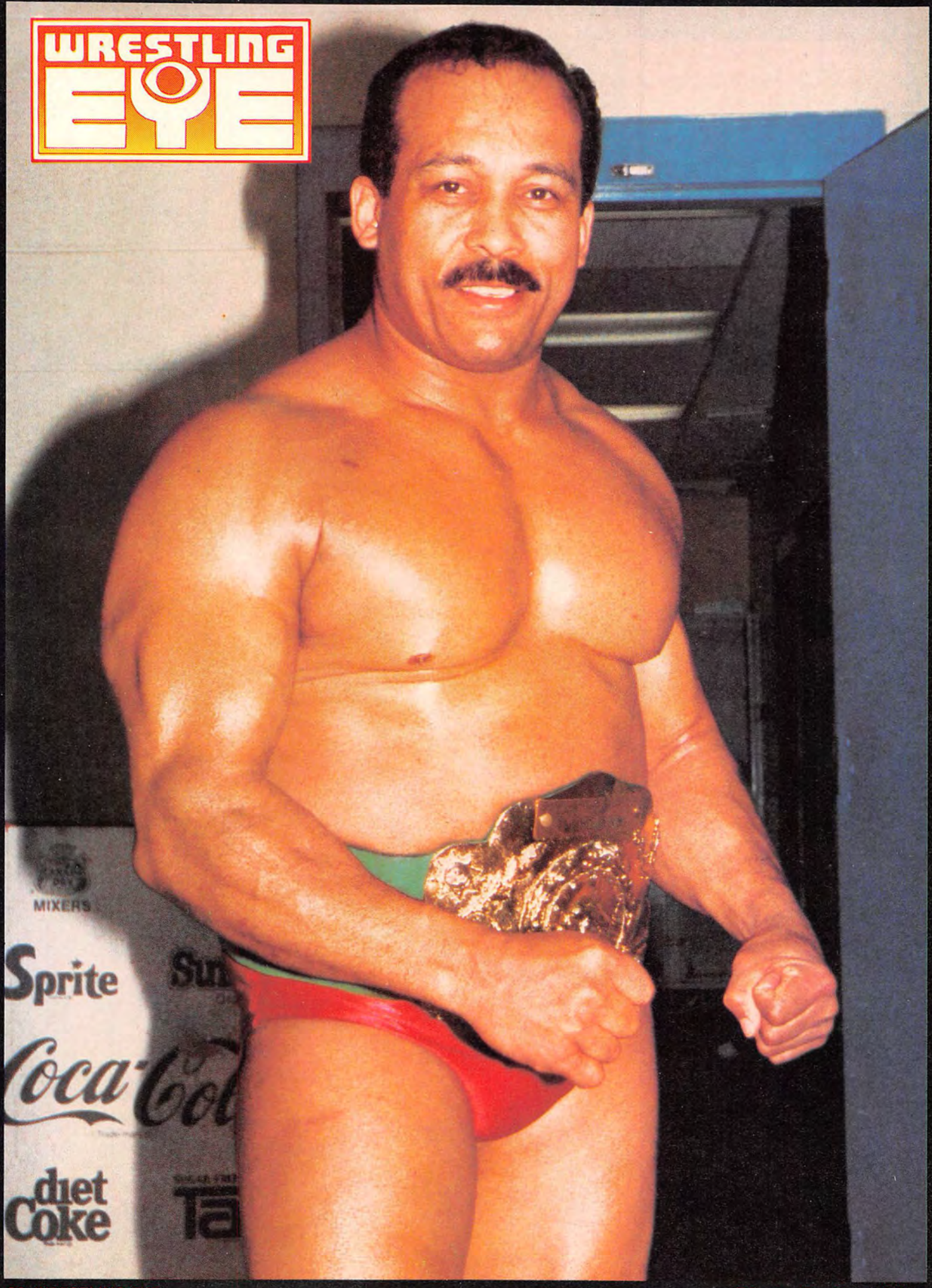

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